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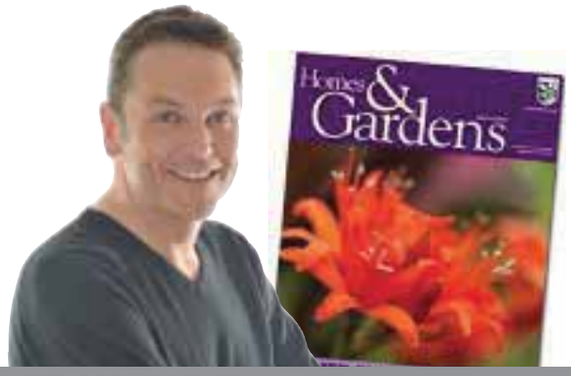

INSIDE

Review
Brian Conley embraces the power of Neil Diamond

Homes & Gardens
Re-style your property on the inside and out

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA | IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT | No.444 | March 27, 2011

ONLINE NEWS & SPORT: KENTNEWS.CO.UK | **CAMPAIGN:** KEEP KENT WORKING **PAGES 34+71** | **FREE**

GALE ATTACKS COMPENSATION OVERHAUL AND FRANCHISE EXTENSION

'Useless' train payout plan blast by Tory MP

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A NEW payout scheme to compensate delayed Southeastern passengers has been branded "worse than useless" by a senior backbencher.

North Thanet MP Roger Gale attacked the new 'delay repay' initiative, due to be rolled out in the summer, despite other Kent MPs and campaigners welcoming the overhaul.

The new system will allow passengers delayed by 30 minutes or more to apply for compensation immediately on an individual basis, rather than wait for annual performance statistics.

But Mr Gale, who also said he was disappointed the company had been granted a two-year extension on its franchise agreement, said it would be of no benefit to commuters.

"This scheme is worse than useless," he said. "They are talking about a delay of half an hour on a journey of one-and-a-half to two hours. That's a huge percentage of the journey.

"How many people are they actually going to pay? Delayed trains are often 20 to 25 minutes late. And will they pay out if trains are cancelled? If a train is cancelled and I have to wait for another one and I miss an appointment, I'm not going to get compensated."

A Southeastern official said if a passenger was to turn up at a station and a train was cancelled, and the replacement was 35 minutes late, they would receive compensation.

But Mr Gale said he was not convinced Southeastern would pay out when it came to cancelled rather than delayed trains.

Currently, payouts are based on the average annual performance and punctuality of the

Continued on page two

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

DAME JUDI'S CASTLE BOND

For full details see inside

Tsunami heroes

A FIREFIGHTER who spent the week after Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami helping in the search for survivors has spoken of the horror – and the dignity – he saw there.

John Mazzey, of Kent's specialist search and rescue team, spent three days in the devastated towns of Ofunato and Kamaishi, where tens of thousands of people were missing.

STORY – SEE PAGES 8-9

Friends and foes

KENT-based soldiers have been involved in a bloody firefight with Afghan insurgents.

The troops were ambushed by Afghan fighters and the resulting battle saw insurgents injured and killed. The troops are due back on Canterbury in April after a seven-month tour of duty, but there was still time renew old acquaintances from across the pond.

STORY – SEE PAGES 24-25

Twenty20 setback

KENT cricket boss Jamie Clifford has voiced his disappointment at the decision to reduce the number of Twenty20 games from 16 to 10 after this season.

Clifford says the move is a "backward step" and believes the shorter programme will hit the club hard at a time when the St Lawrence Ground is being redeveloped to make the most of the 20-over format.

FULL STORY – SEE SPORT

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Referendum backs the People's Port

TIDE OF OPINION: The non-binding referendum in Dover gave 98 per cent support

THOUSANDS of people turned out to vote overwhelmingly in favour of transferring the Port of Dover into the community's hands, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

In a referendum on Wednesday, organised by Dover People's Port Trust (DPPT), 98 per cent of people who turned out supported the proposals – with 5,244 in favour and just 113 against.

The chairman of DPPT, Neil Wiggins, said he was "thrilled" with the result, although he admitted it was not binding on the Government.

"Considering the polling stations were only open for five hours, I was pleased with how many people turned out to vote," he said.

Trailblazer

"This will send a strong message to Government. David Cameron talks about the Big Society and communities being in charge of their own destinies. Well, this is an example of that and will be hard to ignore.

"I believe Government will change the criteria. It should be communitisation, not privatisation. Dover has blazed a trail here and other communities could follow its lead."

Powers to force a referendum under local government legislation are rarely used, but the People's Port bid ignited such passion that a parish poll was organised after a vote at a packed meeting in Dover town hall earlier this month.

It came in response to proposals put forward by Dover Harbour Board (DHB) in 2010, which has run the port as a trust since 1606, to privatise the asset.

But under plans by the People's Port trust, the community would instead buy the port with a £200 million bid.

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke, the instigator of the proposal, said residents could become members of the trust for £10.

The remainder of the purchase funds would come from City of London institutions.

DHB called the community proposals – which won the backing of wartime forces' sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn – "unrealistic and undeliverable".

While residents turned out in their droves to back the plans this week, others were more cautious. Dover RMT union spokesman Mike Sargent said there was no substance to the proposals.

"No-one really knows where the money is coming from. It will be raised through private equity businesses, which means it's just privatisation another way," he said. "It's all pie in the sky. This referendum was an empty box. There's been plenty of rhetoric but no-one has been able to show where the money is.

"The proposals say jobs at the port will be for local people, but EU legislation says you can't direct all jobs to local people.

"I asked about training opportunities at the town hall meeting. I was told a nautical sea school is going to be built in Dover. How is that going to be paid for? They are saying what people want to hear, but Dover Harbour Board and the people behind the People's Port are just snake-oil salesmen with different schemes. It's about looking at what is the lesser of two evils."

About 21,000 residents were eligible to vote in the referendum and the turnout was 25 per cent.

News and sport updated daily online
www.yourdover.co.uk

Scheme 'worse than useless'

Continued from front page

operator, meaning despite hundreds of complaints for poor standards last year, few people received compensation.

Season ticket holders would have been entitled to a five per cent reduction in fares had Southeastern failed to run 82 per cent of its trains on time last year. But the operator managed to scrape through with 82.04 per cent.

Southeastern managing director Charles Horton said the delay repay scheme would be welcomed by passengers.

MP for Tunbridge Wells Greg Clark said he was delighted the scheme was being introduced, and the Kent manager of travellers' group Passenger Focus Tunde Olatunji called it a "silver lining".

The initiative was revealed as Southeastern announced a two-year extension of its franchise agreement.

Mr Horton said: "I'm hopeful that over the past five years passengers have noticed improvements. We're operating more services than ever before, including new high-speed trains, we have invested heavily in staff training and development, and made improvements to many stations and trains.

"But we know there's plenty more to do, particularly to continue improving punctuality and provide better information during disruption."

Disastrous

Despite the claims of improvements, a group of Kent MPs has been campaigning for better services and a stop to fare increases implemented by Southeastern each year. In January, passengers on some routes saw a rise of 13 per cent. It followed disastrous winter services, where hundreds of commuters were left stranded during heavy snow, with little or no information about services.

Commuters on the east and north coast of the county have also highlighted problems where the fast train does not reach high speeds until Ashford or Ebbsfleet.

The 'classic' service on that line has also been so reduced commuters are left with no option but to travel on the more expensive high-speed train. Mr Gale and fellow Tory Mark Reckless, the MP for Rochester and Strood, called for Southeastern to be stripped of its franchise earlier this year.

However, based on punctuality and performance targets set under Labour, the Government agreed to extend the contract until 2014, when ministers will look at whether another firm should take over.

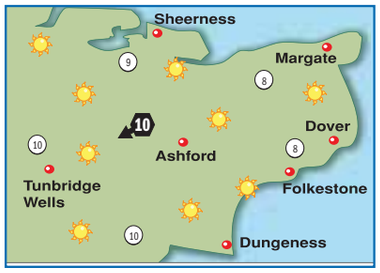
Mr Gale said given the terms of the agreement entered into by the Labour government, the extension was no surprise.

"The company has to be put on notice and to understand there will be strong opposition to the renewal of its contract," he said.

Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch also questioned the extension: "Southeastern has not provided a satisfactory service and this is reflected in poor performance ratings," she said. "What this demonstrates is a need for more rigorously negotiated franchise agreements."

Mr Olatunji said the franchise extension would be received with mixed feelings, but the "silver lining" was the delay repay scheme.

Kent today



TODAY: After a frosty start in places, it will be dry and fine with largely blue skies and lots of sunshine. Chilly in the moderate north-easterly winds. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with predominantly clear skies. Moderate north-easterly winds. Frosty. Min temp -1 to 2C (30-36F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	11	52	London	sun	13	55
Belfast	cloudy	10	50	Liverpool	sun	9	48
Birmingham	fair	10	50	Manchester	fair	10	50
B'mouth	sun	12	54	Newcastle	fair	10	50
Bristol	sun	10	50	Norwich	sun	9	48
Cardiff	sun	12	54	Oxford	sun	11	52
Cork	cloudy	10	50	Southsea	sun	12	54
Edinburgh	fair	11	52	S'hampton	sun	12	54
Glasgow	fair	10	50	Southport	sun	8	46
Isle of Man	fair	8	46	Swansea	fair	10	50
Leeds	fair	9	48	Torquay	sun	12	54

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.43am	Sunset	7.20pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	3.35am	Moonset	11.57am	7.20pm to 6.41am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	05.30	5.5	18.03	5.3	07.00	5.2	19.36	5.2
Margate	06.28	4.1	19.00	3.9	07.57	3.9	20.21	3.8
St Mary's	11.33	4.2	–	–	00.18	4.3	13.11	4.1

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 11C min 2C

tuesday Mostly sunny. max 12C min 4C

wednesday Dry. Bright. max 12C min 6C

thursday Patchy drizzle. max 13C min 7C

friday Fine. Mild. max 14C min 7C

saturday Sunny intervals. max 15C min 8C

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Taylor's childhood of Kent summer 'bliss'

By **MARIJKE COX**

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SHE was the Queen of Hollywood, a legend of the silver screen, but before Elizabeth Taylor rose to the dizzying heights of fame she spent long summer days in a lodge in Kent.

Details of her time in the county emerged as fellow stars paid tribute to the 79-year-old, who died in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Double Oscar winner Taylor, who was made a Dame at Buckingham Palace in 2000, had a history of ill health and was being treated for heart problems at the time of her death.

Eight times married, Dame Elizabeth was described as a "true star" by her Hollywood contemporaries, Liza Minnelli and Shirley MacLaine.

Long before the icon had risen to fame, she spent her summers and weekends on a country estate called Great Swifts, in Cranbrook, which was owned by her godfather Colonel Victor Cazalet.

The Taylor family had renovated a gamekeeper's lodge on the 16th century estate and used it as a getaway.

The home was named Little Swallows after a family of swallows that lived outside the young Elizabeth's bedroom window.

According to the Elizabeth Taylor Archives, the star said it was like "a little house out of a Walt Disney film, nestled against a lovely wood that was almost like a bird sanctuary".

"There were hundreds of acres to roam over and a farm of sorts. My brother and I made pets of all the animals – pet rabbits, pet turtles, pet lambs, pet goats, pet chickens," she said. "It was my idea of real bliss."

Taylor, who had an older brother called Howard, was born in Hampstead, north London, but she moved to America, where her parents come from, just before the beginning of World War Two.

She went on to star in numerous films, including Hollywood classic Cleopatra alongside Richard Burton, who she married twice, and Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? for which she won an Academy Award.

Although at the height of her fame her time in Kent was a distant memory, it was not the last she would see of the county

In 1980 she starred in The Mirror Crack'd, a film based on Agatha Christie's Miss Marple novel The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side, part of which was filmed on location in Smarden in Ashford.

The thriller saw Dame Elizabeth play a famous movie star tied up in a murder plot, alongside Rock Hudson, Bedknobs and Broomsticks star Angela Lansbury, and Some Like It Hot actor Tony Curtis.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Filming The Mirror Crack'd was not Elizabeth Taylor's first experience of our county, which she had regularly visited as a child

Jungle queen to sing for Demelza

X FACTOR and I'm Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here star Stacey Solomon is the latest big name confirmed for this summer's charity music extravaganza at Kings Hill.

The 21-year-old came third in the X Factor in 2009 and then won over millions of viewers to be crowned Queen of the Jungle in the ITV1 reality TV show.

She will host and perform at Music on the Hill – the three-day event on June 24-26.

The opening day sees Katherine Jenkins perform with the National Symphony Orchestra, before boy band McFly headline on the Saturday, supported by City Stereo.

The final day will see Miss Solomon join ABC, fellow X Factor star Ben Mills, and Abba tribute act Bjorn Again.

All profits will benefit two charities – the Demelza Hospice Care for Children and the Children's Development Trust.

Tickets for the Family Summer Sunday cost £29.50 for adults and £16 for children aged six-16. Family tickets for two adults and two children cost £80. Children five and under go free.

See www.musiconthehill.org.uk for details.

To see this search 'Lullingstone' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Julie Maddocks meets Tom Hart Dyke who has created a world garden at Lullingstone Castle

Jobs at risk as Manston reviews competitiveness

A MAJOR review is under way at Manston Airport, and it may eventually mean some of the 100 staff are made redundant.

Bosses say the purpose of the three-month review is not specifically designed to cut people from the payroll, but rather is a bid to remain competitive.

This month budget airline Flybe announced it was scrapping its route to Manchester and flying to Belfast instead.

The review began on Monday and will last until at least June.

The airport said it had formally launched a consultation process to consider changes in the working patterns and conditions of all staff across the airport.

New Zealand-based owner Infratil said the consultation will last at least 90 days in line with the legal requirements for such a move.

Airport chief executive officer Charles Buchanan said: "We have more than 100 employees at Manston, many of whom have been with us for years. We are now in a situation where some working arrangements do not match the current business activity.

"This is something we must rectify to ensure the airport has a sustainable future.

"It is not an objective of this process to identify significant redundancies; however, at this stage, I cannot guarantee that there won't be some job losses.

"We are also reviewing all our external contracts to consider which of these could be performed more effectively in-house."

The airport, with its new 700,000 annual passenger capacity terminal, has routes to cities including Dubrovnik, Croatia; Edinburgh; Jersey; Verona, Italy; Madeira and Oporto, Portugal; plus the Orkney Islands and Sumburgh, Shetland Isles, both via Edinburgh. It moved almost 30,000 people last year, well up on the previous 12 months.

POLICE say there could be a link between two incidents in which a man tried to abduct children in Thanet.

The first incident occurred on Saturday, March 19, in Chichester Road, Ramsgate, when a man encouraged a five-year-old girl to sit in his car. The girl refused and told her mother.

The next incident was on Wednesday, March 23, in Millmead Road, Margate, when a man opened a gate and spoke to a three-year-old boy in his back garden.

Det Sgt John Cooper said: "Clearly these incidents are concerning and we are keen to hear from anyone who has any information that will help us with our investigations."

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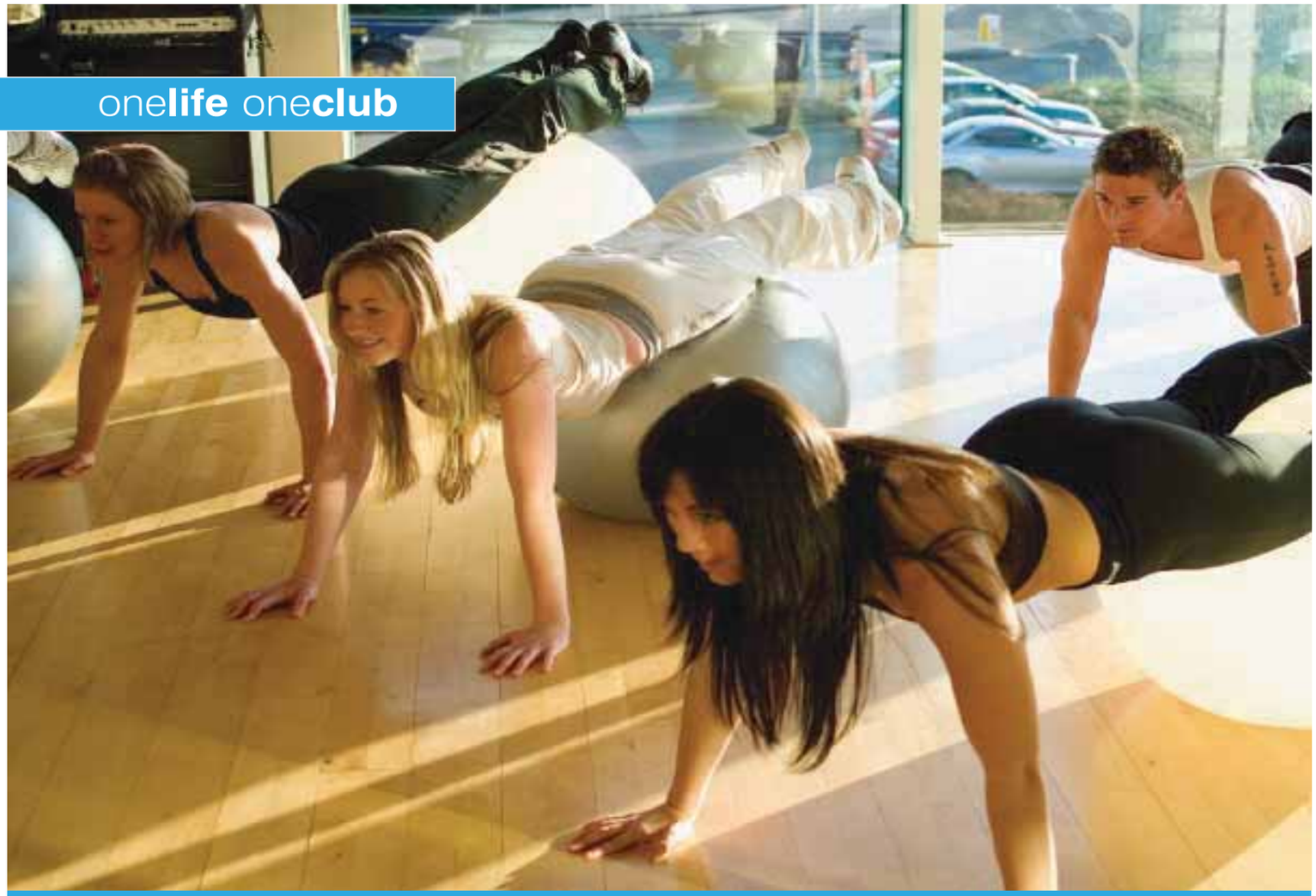

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Royal street parties call is greeted with apathy

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THEY are a great British tradition, an excuse for communities to put up the bunting and join together to celebrate days of national importance.

But the age-old street party seems to have lost its appeal ahead of the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

For with just days left before the deadline for road closure applications, only 54 have been approved by Kent County Council.

This is despite the authority saying it would waive any charges for people wishing to host street parties to celebrate the Royal wedding on April 29.

Ashford and Swale districts saw the least interest, with just one lonely application each, and Canterbury – although the county's only city – had a measly two, with one of those for the village of Littlebourne.

Sevenoaks had three applications; Thanet, Dartford and Gravesham four each; Shepway five; Dover seven; and Maidstone 10.

Tunbridge Wells, which was granted Royal status in 1909 by King Edward VII due to its popularity with members of the Royal family, had just six applications.

Tracey Murphy, who is organising a street party in Joydens Wood in Dartford, said she was surprised there were so few applications.

The mother-of-three said her street had a party for the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and for Charles and Diana's wedding in 1981, when thousands of people took to the streets to celebrate with their friends and neighbours.

Mrs Murphy said the idea for a street party this year came during the cold snap.

CELEBRATIONS: Street parties ensued after Charles' and Diana's nuptials in 1981 (above), but will the streets be full after William and Kate (right) say 'I do' next month?

"Our road never gets gritted because it's a close. I put notes through people's doors asking if they could come out and help clear the road," she said.

"Everybody came out and after we cleared the snow we drank mulled wine and said we should have a party. We then thought it would be nice to have one for the Royal Wedding."

The 40-year-old joined mother-of-two Angela Reilly to organise a residents' meeting to discuss ideas.

Now, with just a month to go, the street has arranged the road closure through KCC, entertainment and games, face painting and a barbecue.

Mrs Murphy said: "At the moment we've got about 100 people coming, but we're expecting 150. We're selling tickets and the money goes towards all the food and bunting."

But while she and her neighbours party together on April 29, other districts will be a little quieter.

KCC is supplying free signs for organisers to place at the point their road is being closed off on the day.

Lord Lieutenant of Kent Allan Willett, the Queen's representative in the county, has accepted an invitation to attend the Royal Wedding at Westminster Abbey.

He said: "It will provide a welcome morale boost and splash of colour in these difficult times and I am confident the event will be well celebrated in our towns and villages."

• ***To apply for a road closure visit www.kent.gov.uk or call 08458 247 800 by Monday, March 28.***

Arrest in rape case 25 years after attack

A MIDDLE-AGED man has been charged in connection with an alleged rape that took place almost 25 years ago.

Martin Frank Eke, from Douglas Road in Tonbridge, was arrested following a reinvestigation by Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate's Cold Case Investigation Team into the rape of a 22-year-old woman in 1986.

The 46-year-old is due to appear at Channel Magistrate Court in Folkestone on April 14.

A woman reported she had been raped near Folkestone West train station on October 2, 1986, as she walked home from a night out with friends.

Dame Kelly on board to name super ferry

DAME Kelly Holmes has officially named P&O Ferries' new super ferry the Spirit of Britain at a special ceremony.

The double Olympic champion took the starring role in the event aboard the new ship at Dover's Eastern Docks attended by 300 guests.

At Thursday's ceremony, Dame Kelly said: "As a double Olympic champion I know about the will to win and the desire to stay out in front. As a businesswoman myself, I know many of the same qualities to running a company and building great brands.

"I agreed to become godmother of the Spirit of Britain because I recognised many of those traits in P&O ferries. Not only is it a household name, it is one of the biggest employers in East Kent and, of course my home county."

Spirit of Britain has capacity for up to 2,000 passengers, and three separate vehicle decks capable of carrying nearly four kilometres of traffic parked end to end.

She will be joined on the Dover-Calais service by her identical twin, Spirit of France, in September.

Minister unveils plans to revive county tourism

TOURISM minister John Penrose has revealed his hopes of drawing in international crowds to Kent through a new multi-million pound strategy.

On a visit to the county Mr Penrose told KoS he also wanted to promote holidays at home and show residents the delights on their own doorsteps.

But the Tory minister, who was in Kent for the official opening of the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, said this time Government was taking a different course of action.

"The private sector has put in £50 million and the public sector £50m for a new marketing strategy," he said.

"It's not something we usually do, it's normally Government money used; the last time Government did this was after the foot and mouth outbreak when tourism in the UK dwindled and the private sector helped.

"But we have to do things in a different way now due to financial pressures and getting the two sectors to work together will mean people working in the industry benefiting and having more of a say about how money is spent."

NEW DIRECTION: Tourism minister John Penrose

Last year David Cameron appealed to the British tourism industry to help create a marketing fund of more than £100m.

He praised the "magnificent" response to his call for action.

The new tourism plan looks to take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by the Royal Wedding, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year and the London Olympics, with hopes of bringing in four million extra overseas visitors over the next four years.

This would bring an additional £2 billion to the economy and help create 50,000 new jobs across the country.

Mr Penrose said tourism was a priority for the Government.

"There are three things we want to do; we want to bring in more people from the rest of the world, encourage British people to spend their holidays at home, and raise the level of productivity in the industry," he said.

"This will give a real boost, especially in places like Dover and Kent where there is the coast, beautiful countryside and heritage. There is so much for people to see and do here.

"This is a chance to rebalance the economy."

Kent's tourism industry is worth £3.2 billion to the local economy and supports 63,000 jobs.

Mr Penrose's visit was for the launch of the Dover Marina Hotel and Spa on the town's seafront which has undergone an extensive renovation to restore it to its former Regency glory.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY ED HILL

Louise driving for the top

LOUISE COOK never imagined when she was a young girl driving around in her toy buggy that it would lead to a career in motorsport.

But then the 23-year-old from Maidstone stepped into a rally car in a competition to be a female rally driver.

She said: "I'm not from a motorsport background, but my dad used to take me to car shows and to Brands Hatch, so I think he passed on his passion to me.

"There was a competition to get more ladies into rallying and the prize was the organisers paying for a season's rallying.

"I didn't win, but I came second out of 1,000 entries and that gave me the confidence to get my rallying licence. I then spent my student loan on my first rally."

Louise managed to come 51st out of 105 entries in that first event.

She said: "It was doing so well with so little experience that led to me catching the bug."

Taking part in one race may have been easy, but putting together a campaign for a full season is a more difficult prospect. Rallying is an expensive business, and if you want to be competitive there is a constant hunt for sponsorship.

Louise said: "I came up with the idea of getting 500 companies to give me £50 each, for a chance of getting sponsorship on the car. That paid for most of my first year."

In her first season, Louise achieved her goal of finishing in the top 10 of the British Rally Championship Challenge.

She has now stepped up a category, meaning she can reconnoitre courses before the rally and prepare her own pace notes. The preparation means faster times, but harder battles with other drivers.

Louise competes in the N class category. Her Ford Fiesta is relatively close to the road car that most of us might drive, although she has rebuilt the engine to improve its performance.

She said: "I am really excited about competing this season. The main difficulty is getting the money, because it is about double the budget compared with last year.

Picture: JAKOB EBREY

AMBITION: Louise Cook, pictured above and left in action, is aiming to be the first woman world rally champion

"I have to do it so I can make it to the World Rally Championship Academy, which is the junior world championship for under-25s."

The former council receptionist knows she has to improve to get to the top, and spends some of the winter in Sweden, driving on ice to improve her skills.

"You can refine everything." she said. "My car control has massively improved. Any little mistake and the car reacts and punishes you, because there is hardly any grip."

She is not fazed by being one of the very few women who have tried to make it in the male-dominated world of motorsport: "You have to be thick-skinned if you are going to put yourself in a situation where you stand out, but it is such a competitive sport that I would have to put up with stick anyway.

"All the guys take the mick out of each other and play psychological games. They treat me no different, and it's not like tennis, where you win less prize money as a female."

Louise is well aware that being a woman driver does help her to get noticed.

"It is a selling point, and people know I am going to get more media attention, but it's still a struggle," she said. "I would like to find one big sponsor."

She is determined to achieve her ambition of being the first woman world rally champion, and her next race is the Bulldog Rally in Wales on Saturday, April 2.

She said: "I never thought I would be in the British Rally Championship in my second season. It has been a fast learning curve."

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FIREPLACE & STONE CENTRE

Dame's deep bond with castle

By **JOE BILL**
joe.bill@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN not having to reign in a rampant James Bond, Dame Judi Dench likes to relax in a quiet corner of the Kent countryside.

Though it may not stay so quiet for long, as she hopes to persuade the makers of the 007 films to shoot in the county.

The 76-year-old actress, famous for her role as M in the last six James Bond movies, lives in the county and spends a lot of time at the picturesque, historic royal household, Hever Castle, near Sevenoaks.

The former home of Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn, first attracted the Oscar winner 26 years ago as place to walk her dog, but now she takes her grandchildren in the summer.

She said: "Hever was the first place we came to for a picnic and we've come back here every year since. It's a lovely place and very famous, of course.

"We all know who met who here, and it's very unspoilt. The gardens are just beautiful."

I SPY: Daniel Craig as 007

Dame Judi was unveiling the new Hever Castle Rose (Horquinsey), created by renowned rose grower, the late Colin Horner.

The rose, which features velvety deep-red blooms offset by golden stamens, was planted by the actress close to the castle moat, setting it apart from the thousands of rose bushes in the gardens.

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

DIGGING IN: Dame Judi Dench at Hever Castle for the rose planting, inset

However, Dame Judi did admit that both she and her late husband, Michael Williams, were keen on gardens – but not on gardening.

She said: "I'm not a keen gardener, no. But I have somebody who is. I am a keen sitter in my garden. I love it. And to get roses which have been grown and given to you for a certain occasion is wonderful. A great friend in Scotland died not so long ago and we had a rose grown for him. It's just a lovely way to remember somebody and we now have one here at Hever."

The York-born actress recently returned from filming in Hollywood with Clint Eastwood and Leonardo DiCaprio. Dame Judi will play DiCaprio's mother in a film about the first director of the FBI, J Edgar Hoover. Eastwood is directing the film.

Dame Judi said: "He is the grandmaster. He is everything everyone says about him and more. Working with a legend is great. I have always seemed to be in the right place at the right time and had luck."

Dame Judi claimed the Hoover movie was the first time she had filmed in Hollywood. "But what about the Bond films?" she was asked. In true M style, she said: "Never – James Bond is all British."

The star is no stranger to royalty, having been made a Dame by the Queen in 1988 and played Queen Elizabeth I in the Oscar-winning Shakespeare In Love.

But it was her role as M that dominated the questions during the rose planting.

She said: "M would like Hever, but would probably want to sit behind one of the little windows in the castle, with a telescope.

"I don't get to make decisions regarding the filming, but I will do my best to get the Bond people to use Hever as a location."

Dame Judi starts filming the as-yet untitled new Bond film in November, her seventh, which also makes her the longest serving member of the current Bond team.

Having bagged Baftas, Golden Globes, an Oscar and haul of other awards, Dame Judi will now front a £100 million television campaign to bring tourists to Britain.

The VisitBritain commercial, entitled Invitation To The World, was filmed at Hever Castle and is to be broadcast around the globe after April's royal wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton.

For more information about Hever Castle and Gardens, visit www.hevercastle.co.uk

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Information about how social services, charities and local voluntary organisations can help you will also be available.

On 31 March 2011, starting at 11am and finishing at 1pm, the Showcase will be held at:

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Tel: 01843 221 259

The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at the New Life Family Church on the same day starting at 1.30pm and closing at 4.30pm. Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk.

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk.

Dignity and grief

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE operations commander of Kent's specialist search-and-rescue team has described the devastation witnessed in Japan and the quiet dignity of the people who had lost everything.

Station manager John Mazzey spoke to KoS after Kent Fire and Rescue Service's urban search crew returned from its rescue mission in stricken Japan last week.

The 46-year-old from Pembury spent almost three days hunting for survivors alongside his colleagues in the devastated towns of Ofunato and Kamaishi, where tens of thousands of people were missing.

The team was made up of fire-fighter Dean Langley, 46, from Sevenoaks; fire-fighter Matthew Scott from Maidstone; crew manager Heather Heath from Folkestone; watch manager Alan Downes, from Broadstairs; and watch manager Dave Hudson, also from Broadstairs.

"We were one of the first teams to go into the town of Ofunato to help the local support services," said Mr Mazzey. "As we travelled down from our base, the area on the outskirts was more or less untouched, but once we got to where the tsunami hit, just about everything was destroyed.

"The sheer scale was immense – almost everything had been damaged. There were some people at the remains of their houses trying to pick up family mementoes – they looked shocked and traumatised."

Mr Mazzey was also part of the UK's search-and-rescue team in the Haiti disaster in last year.

He said: "In Haiti there were many bodies on the streets waiting for collection, but in Japan bodies that would normally be there were drawn out to sea by the tsunami and were washing up on the coast."

Asked about his most difficult moment, the father-of-four said: "I was with one of the teams from Mid and West Wales in part of Kamaishi that was particularly damaged.

"A local fire officer was standing outside what was left of his house, and the Mid and West Wales team went in and identified four members of his family who had died. When the Japanese fire officer received the news he simply bowed and thanked the team for the information. He maintained his composure."

Mr Mazzey said the Japanese were dignified and full of hope, even bringing food to the rescue teams.

"Even though we as a team are self-sufficient, people were insisting on giving us food," he said.

"It was quite clear it was not acceptable for us to turn it down."

Kent's team leader Alan Downes said the support from the Japanese

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amid the rubble

survivors was humbling. "We were faced with a scene of total devastation in Ofunato, and yet despite the fact that most of the local community had lost everything, they were extremely supportive, expressing their extreme gratitude for our efforts, which was a very humbling experience," he said.

The UK International Search and Rescue Team, which included Kent's own heroes, was sadly unable to find any survivors in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami but did detect three bodies.

The death toll for the disaster has reached more than 18,000, with some 450,000 people homeless.

Mr Mazzey said that during their time in Japan they would often be woken by severe aftershocks from the earthquake.

"There was a power failure, which meant there were problems with the tsunami warning system, so we couldn't work through the night," he said.

"While we wanted to have the maximum time searching, we had to be aware of the risks."

Mr Mazzey said on his return to the UK that it took a little while to adjust but admitted that seven days in the devastation was "nothing".

"People in Japan have work ahead of them now to try to rebuild what they have lost – seven days is nothing when you consider their plight."

Heavy snowfall and falling temperatures after the start of the disaster led the UK and US rescuers to announce the end of their mission as the window of opportunity of finding survivors closed.

International development minister Stephen O'Brien praised the Kent team members for their courage and professionalism in Japan.

"Despite cold, hard conditions, Kent Fire and Rescue Service's team worked relentlessly to search for survivors in the utter devastation of the earthquake and tsunami," he said.

Find more news and sport updated
www.kentnews.co.uk

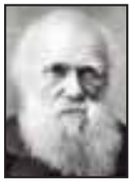
Pictures: KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

MISSION: Pictures from left: Kent's Urban Search and Rescue team (from left, Dave Hudson, Alan Downes, Heather Heath, Dean Langley, Matt Scott, John Mazzey and Steve Partington) – in front is Cheshire FRS USAR member Steve Buckley with his rescue dog, Brin; members of the team search through the rubble and ruins of a town hit by the tsunami; the UK-ISAR team use coded markings sprayed on buildings to notify other teams of the status of the search in that area

Darwin's Down House and Chatham Dockyard on shortlist, writes NICK AMES

Sites bid for UN recognition

THE county has two sites that have made it onto the shortlist for World Heritage status to line up alongside the Taj Mahal and Great Wall of China.



Chatham Dockyard and the rest of the town's historic military sites, and Darwin's Landscape Laboratory in Bromley, have both been put forward by tourism and heritage minister John Penrose to rank alongside the Serengeti plains of east Africa, and the Pyramids of Giza, in Egypt.

The Historic Dockyard, Fort Amherst and Great Lines of Chatham, as well as the memorial to one of the world's greatest scientists, are now on what is called the Tentative List, alongside 10 other sites across the UK and on British territories overseas.

These include the Lake District, the Forth Rail Bridge and the islands of St Helena, and the Turks and Caicos.

Canterbury Cathedral is already listed.

There are 911 World Heritage sites across the globe which have been designated as important enough for the United Nations to ensure their preservation.

They are subject to planning restrictions but financial aid is available for upkeep and development. Should they be threatened in any way international law can be bought to bear and relief actions organised.

Those campaigning at both Kent sites were delighted at the news.

"This is great news for the whole of Medway," said Joanne Cable, World Heritage Manager at Medway council.

"What we have – which the others have not – is a completed bid approved by all relevant parties.

"If a bid was put in now, we would be ready.

"What is important about the area is its historic links, especially with the Royal Navy. At one time, Britain had 800 ships at sea at any one time and obviously this was a major factor in world affairs.

Battle of Trafalgar

"HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, was built at Chatham Dockyard as were many other historic vessels."

The scientific importance of Darwin has been emphasised by supporters of the Bromley bid.

Darwin's Landscape Laboratory is Down House, its gardens and the countryside around Downe, Cudham and Keston where Darwin lived and worked for the 40 years, including on his work On the Origin of Species.

The naturalist and explorer wrote in his 1876 autobiography: "One problem of great importance... is the tendency in organic beings descended from the same stock to diverge in character as they become modified... I can remember the very spot in the road, whilst in my carriage, when to my joy the solution occurred to me; and this was long after I had come to Down."

SHORTLIST: Charles Darwin's home, Down House, left, and the ropery at Chatham Historic Dockyard, above, are both on the Tentative List for World Heritage status

Its supporters say the landscape is of outstanding universal value because of its unique cultural significance as the open-air laboratory in which the theory of evolution by natural selection was developed.

They point out how it provided unique insights into the scientific understanding of natural life and biodiversity.

Throughout recent history, they say the ideas that were developed from daily observations and experiments at Down have had a profound influence on the life sciences, medicine, agriculture, philosophy, the creative arts and general views of humankind's relation to other living creatures.

The list will now be considered by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

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M25 murderer Noye 'will keep trying for freedom'

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

HE WAS one of Britain's most notorious career criminals, a master of his trade and a legend of the criminal underworld.

But in 1996, Kenneth Noye's fiery temper ended with a murder conviction, a life sentence, and the infamous title of the M25 Killer.

Despite pleas of self defence, in 2000 he was jailed for the murder of 21-year-old Stephen Cameron, who was stabbed to death on an M25 slip road near Swanley, in front of his 17-year-old fiancée.

On Tuesday, after two failed appeals in 2001 and 2004, three judges rejected a new bid to have his conviction overturned.

It followed a call by the Criminal Cases Review Commission in October, 2010, to refer the case to the Court of Appeal, stating two key witnesses in Noye's original trial were "so discredited" the conviction should be quashed.

But appeal judges said this week "there was no doubt that Mr Cameron was deliberately stabbed by the appellant".

Noye, 63, who was born in Bexleyheath and lived in West Kingsdown before his arrest, is no stranger to prison. In 1986 he served eight years of a 14-year sentence for his part in the infamous Brink's-Mat robbery at Heathrow Airport.

Surveillance

Before his conviction, Noye was under surveillance by police and in January, 1985, he killed an officer he discovered in his garden.

A jury found him not guilty on the grounds of self defence, but just a year later he was convicted of conspiracy to handle gold robbed in the Brink's-Mat raid and was jailed for eight years.

Just two years after his release, he stabbed Mr Cameron.

True crime author Wensley Clarkson, who penned Kenny Noye: Public Enemy No 1, said Noye was a successful career criminal whose temper ended up getting him into trouble.

Speaking to KoS before the appeal result was announced, Mr Clarkson said he wasn't surprised Noye was pushing for release.

"He still proclaims his innocence and won't just sit there and do nothing about it.

KILLER: Kenny Noye's temper lead to the M25 murder, claims true crime author

"That has become his full-time job in prison. He's very active and a workaholic.

"He's got enterprises on the outside world which people are running for him, and he wants to get out.

"He's been working hard on this and tried different versions of appeal – he's not just sitting in prison doing nothing."

After the murder of Mr Cameron, speculation was raised over whether he knew Noye, and the fight was over a drug deal.

Mr Clarkson said: "I've heard so many different versions about whether he knew Stephen Cameron. I have no idea what the truth is. There was talk of them knowing each other, but this can be quite hurtful to Mr Cameron's family.

"What I would say is Kent and the south east of London are the criminal hinterlands of Britain. It's not surprising if people know each other."

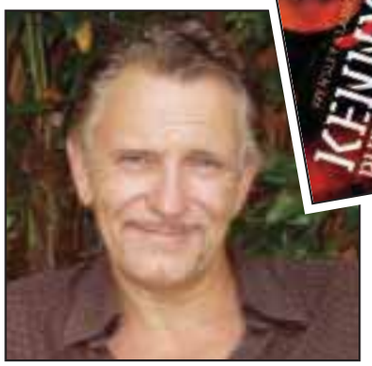
Although having never met Noye, Mr Clarkson has spoken to members of his family and others who knew him, and discovered he had high-profile people such as an MP and judge "in his pocket".

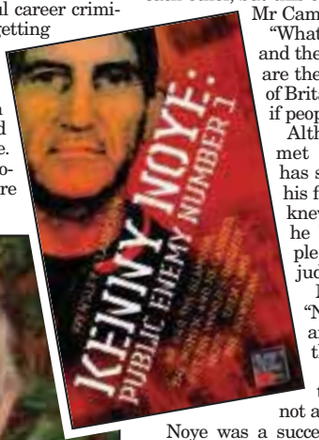
Mr Clarkson said: "Noye is very respected and a legend, but for all the wrong reasons.

"It was quite clear the M25 killing was not a run-of-the-mill crime.

Noye was a successful career criminal, but it his temper got him in trouble.

"The poverty in the 50s drove people to crime. He wasn't like the Krays or the Richardsons – it was just him. He was fearful of no-one."





AUTHOR: Wensley Clarkson, and his book

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Have your say on free school travel cuts plan

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

PARENTS are invited to voice their opinions on controversial plans to axe free travel for pupils at grammar and faith schools.

If proposals go ahead, children at selective or church schools that are not the nearest to their home may lose out on subsidised transport and be made to pay a contributory fee.

Education chiefs at County Hall said they have a legal duty to provide free home-to-school travel – costing £14 million a year and worth more than £450 each– when the nearest, appropriate school is more than two miles away for children under eight, and three miles for older children.

But in many cases parents opt for grammar or church schools that are not their nearest, and Kent County Council, despite not being legally obliged, has paid for the travel. The authority is now proposing to stop providing support for these pupils, starting from September 1, 2012.

Children already receiving help with travel before this date will not be affected.

KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said it was a result of pressure on public services.

"The need to save money in the public sector has prompted a radical re-think of what the council can do," she said.

"Kent County Council has produced a budget to deliver £95 million of savings this year and a further £65 million next year throughout the authority.

"Part of these wider savings include a reduction in the school transport budget.

"We need to focus on our legal commitments and to look at what optional elements of transport we can afford to maintain in the current financial climate."

KCC is proposing to provide discretionary funding to support the popular Kent Freedom Pass, where parents and pupils can pay a one-off fee of £100 and use the bus network any time, all year.

TICKET TO RIDE: Have your say on funding

Cllr Hohler said: "The pass, introduced by KCC four years ago, continues to be hugely successful, with more than 26,500 of Kent's 11 to 16-year-olds enjoying use of public bus services, not only to get to and from school, but also at weekends, in the evenings and during school holidays.

"I hope people will take the time to respond to this consultation.

"Grammar and faith schools are very important to me and the county council. We are keen to hear all views to ensure we can move forward in a fully-informed way."

But Lib Dem councillor and opposition spokesman for education Martin Vye slammed the plans.

"This will make it very difficult for children and young people from lower income families to have the same sort of choice of school as those from more well-off families," he said.

"The Conservatives have said in the past they want more children from low income families to be given the chance of a grammar school education; this measure heads in completely the opposite direction.

"There is the suggestion this is all going to be OK because Kent has the Freedom Pass, but the Conservatives have just increased the charge by a shocking 100 per cent, and what about the 16 to 18-year-olds who are not entitled, or families with several children?

"There is also no provision for paying by instalments."

Parents are invited to have their say before the May 6 deadline by visiting www.kent.gov.uk/transportconsultation or writing to Home to School Transport Consultation, Room 2.35, Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

Government funding for a concessionary travel scheme, which provides free local bus travel for elderly and disabled people is also being significantly reduced.

It means KCC will have to operate a national standard scheme where passes will be accepted from 9.30am-11pm, Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and bank holidays. For the past three years KCC provided additional funding to allow pass holders to travel from 9am on weekdays.

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Big weekend out

THOUSANDS will descend on the county's top attractions as part of My Kent Big Weekend.

More than 51,600 applications were entered in the ballot for tickets, which offer free entry to more than 120 attractions and events this weekend.

Organiser Visit Kent called it a celebration of the local tourism industry. Chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh said: "It's an opportunity for local people to explore the attractions and destinations which entertain our 56 million visitors a year."

For details of the attractions in the My Kent Big Weekend, opening hours and directions, go to www.mykent.co.uk and select Big Weekend.

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Celebrating

HOME to thriving communities of Muslims, Sikhs, Gurkhas, Chinese and many other races and religions, Kent must be as multicultural a place as they come.

With its proximity to both London and Europe, the Garden of England is a popular destination for people of all backgrounds to settle, visit and enjoy.

But Prime Minister David Cameron's recent comments on the supposed failure of state multiculturalism raise serious questions as to how diverse Kent really is.

While the majority of people are capable of sharing their communities with others, no matter what their background or beliefs, is that because they want to or because they have to?

Do they really live in the same communities, or rather separate communities in the same villages or towns?

Professor Frank Furedi, an author and lecturer of sociology at the University of Kent, said: "I think people have always had a clear sense of their own identity, and sometimes the way they make sense of their own world is to compare it with the lifestyles of others.

"Sometimes people are concerned if their own world is changing or being influenced in ways they don't quite understand, but quite often they are attracted to other people's customs and traditions and will actively join in.

"Compared with other parts of the world, I think Kent is a pretty open county. That's not to say every individual is welcoming of other people's cultures, because there are pockets of suspicion, and sometimes people's fear is that their way of life could be disrupted and altered by others.

EDUCATION: More positive media images of minorities will help encourage tolerance, it is claimed. Top, celebrating other cultures and traditions fosters better relations

"But by and large, you will find it's actually a pretty liberal and open place to live."

Stick a pin into a map of Kent and it is likely the area you select will be home to at least one community of people with beliefs and traditions vastly different to your own.

For example, Gravesend has a thriving Asian population and is home to one of the largest Sikh temples in the UK, while there are more than 3,500 Polish ex-pats spread out across towns including Canterbury, Maidstone and Ashford, and a growing number of Germans in Tunbridge Wells.

Evidence suggests the way certain groups are portrayed on television and in the press affects how they are treated in public, and the editor of the Medway-based Nubia magazine for the black and ethnic minority (BME) community, Angela Asieba, says this is certainly the case.

"There seems to be a lack of awareness and education in Kent, which results in people of colour being labelled and stereotyped.

"We should be promoting positive images of the BME community, because if you only focus on the negatives, you will end up with hostility towards people."

Available online as well as in libraries, community centres and places of worship, Nubia magazine focuses on education, health and business issues and showcases BME people in a positive light.

Mrs Asieba, who was born in England to Jamaican parents, says people need to be better educated about the contributions made by all members of society, regardless of

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differences that bind us

Kent is the gateway to Europe and home to communities from many different countries. Chief county reporter STEVE KNIGHT investigates whether Kent is living proof that multiculturalism can work, or if the experiment has failed

COMMUNITY: There is a large population of Sikhs in Gravesend, which is home to one of largest temples in the UK. The Gurkhas have found a warm welcome in the Folkestone area

the colour of their skin. "Medway in particular has a long way to go," she said. "It's worrying to think what sort of abuse people from abroad receive here, especially as I've lived here all my life and get so much hostility myself.

"The only way to tackle the problem is to talk about other cultures in a celebratory way."

The outpouring of public support for the hugely successful Gurkha Justice Campaign of 2009 perhaps adds credence to Mrs Asieba's point of view.

Portrayed as loyal, hard-working and courageous – all positive character traits – the former Army servicemen are therefore rarely spoken of in a bad way, even though the law of averages suggests not every Gurkha can be a model citizen.

Nevertheless, the affection for the Gurkha community in Kent – based mainly in and around Folkestone – has made it easier for them to settle in the county.

"I would proudly say that multiculturalism is working very well in Kent," said Folkestone town councillor and retired Gurkha soldier Dhan Gurung.

"We are working hard to become one community here in Folkestone.

"People can always learn from the culture and customs of others. For example, Gurkha people have very good discipline and show respect to others, and these are traits we hope to share with everyone."

Whereas the Prime Minister was criticised for showing a "lack of clarity" with his comments on multiculturalism, his deputy – Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg – came up with a more concise definition of what the concept should mean.

It should be seen as a process by which people respect and communicate with each other, he said, rather than build walls between each other.

Prof Furedi shares a similar view.

"It's important to understand that we belong to the same community," he said. "People are often critical of multiculturalism because they don't know how to celebrate what binds us together.

"We should be aspiring to achieve a more robust sense of community while being open to other people's customs and traditions."

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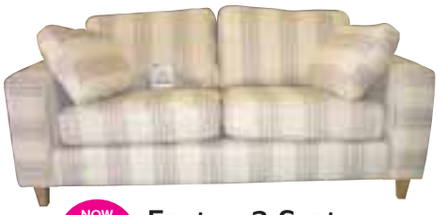

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IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ON STOCK ITEMS

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PICKET LINE: Students joined the protest in support of their lecturers

Students back lecturers over pension strike

NOT everyone was happy about the two-day strike by lecturers at the University of Kent this week – protesters had to scatter at the gates of the Medway campus when one worker tore through the group in his car.

The move was blasted as "dangerous" by one of the demonstration organisers, Ian Bruce.

He is the University and College Union's pensions officer and also a lecturer in nanobiotechnology at Kent's School of Biosciences.

Mr Bruce said: "This one individual just drove through the group and they had to dodge his car.

"Luckily no-one was hurt."

The lecturers were striking over changes to their pension schemes. A last-minute attempt to broker a deal failed and universities around the UK held the protests on Tuesday and Thursday, including Kent and its campuses in Medway, Canterbury and Tonbridge.

They want to stop a reduction in benefits through the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Mr Bruce said: "There was an enormous turnout for the pickets, both students and staff. Parts of the university shut down, and there was a fantastic feeling of solidarity."

He said they are willing to negotiate, but if an agreement cannot be reached, more strikes cannot be ruled out in future weeks.

The action led to fears some final-year students could miss out on their degrees, said Mr Bruce. He said the action could result in students' exam papers being withheld or unmarked, leaving them at a severe disadvantage while other graduates snap up the few jobs available.

Nationally, the union said of the 63 universities affected, 64 per cent of UCU members voted for strike action, and 82 per cent voted for action short of a strike.

In Kent, just 166 UCU members out of 545 responded to a strike ballot at the University of Kent – including 120 in favour.

President of the Kent students' union Helen Wood said its members had agreed to support the UCU lecturers' campaign despite the damage it could cause to their degrees.

The employers' proposals, due to be introduced on April 1, include an end to final-salary pensions for new members, the introduction of a pension age of 65 for all members, and the linking of pension increases to the lower consumer prices index of inflation.

Professor Keith Mander, deputy vice-chancellor for the University of Kent, said: "The University of Kent is working with all staff to meet these challenges and regrets that a minority see strike action as a productive way forward."

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WWI nurse's diary up for sale

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE moving diaries of a nurse who treated soldiers after the bloody battles of World War One are set to be auctioned.

Lucy Kate 'Kitty' Card, from Tunbridge Wells, cared for injured soldiers from the Battle of the Somme and worked in military hospitals in Le Havre, Calais, Rouen, and Etaples.

Her collection of war memorabilia, which includes letters of thanks from the servicemen she treated, and her pristine Red Cross uniform, will go under the hammer at auctioneer Dreweatts on Tuesday, March 29.

Nurse Card never married, and her collection was passed down through her family to her great niece, Joyce Salmon, who died recently. She left it to a neighbour in Tunbridge Wells, who has decided to sell it.

Militaria expert Malcolm Claridge, from the Bristol-based auctioneer, said: "It is a rare archive because it is so complete. It also contains letters from the boys she helped and from their families.

"We've estimated the diaries will make between £600 and £800, but they could fetch twice as much."

The collection was amassed between 1914 and 1919 and also includes medals and sepia photographs. In total, it is expected to sell for between £1,500 and £2,000.

In her diary, Nurse Card makes the relentless horror of life in the trenches come alive, with moving and compassionate accounts of the soldiers she met and treated.

Extracts from her two pocket diaries, written in pencil between 1915 and 1916, include: "March 31, 1916 – Harris, a boy in the ward who has a self-inflicted wound, so is a prisoner, gives a pint of blood to save the life of another patient, he's very sad after his op, but soon regains his spirits.

"July 3, 1916 – A day of days, full convoys in about five or six, about 1,000 passed through, men very cheerful, overflow slept on straw, did dressing by light of oil lamp till about 10, too late for supper.

MEDICAL TEAM: Nurse Card is on the far left behind the wounded soldiers. Left is her Red Cross uniform, which is also on sale

"August 1, 1916 – On night duty tonight in the lines, many very ill, the whole night spent trying to ease their pains, two died within 10 mins of one another, oh! It's so sad.

"August 11, 1916 – Poor Walker has had his leg amputated.

"August 12, 1916 – Lcpl Walker died tonight, very sorry indeed, he was a splendid fellow and so good.

"August 13, 1916 – Smith had his leg amputated, seems very ill.

"August 14, 1916 – Several very ill tonight, poor Smith died just before we came on duty, Foster also died today, oh it is so sad, he was so patient, had his leg amputated."

Mr Claridge said: "Her five medals include the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class silver badge in its original Garrard & Co case. She was also mentioned in despatches in December, 1918."

Nurse Card, who was born in 1881, trained as a teacher before volunteering as an assistant Red Cross nurse in 1914. She was posted to Le Havre in Northern France and ended the Great War at the British military hospital in Calais.

After the war she returned to Tunbridge Wells, where she became headteacher at St Luke's School in 1925.

During World War Two, Nurse Card was in charge of anti-gas warfare training at the Kent and Sussex Hospital.

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A very English celebration

TEA on the village green, sandcastles, fish and chips, gallant knights and garden gnomes will all be part of the fun at the English Festival in Medway.

The event at Riverside Country Park, Gillingham, is on St George's Day, Saturday, April 23.

The park will feature a medieval arena with St George and a three metre animatronic dragon, a pirates' play area, a beach with deckchairs and donkey rides, and a chance to revisit the swinging sixties, from the sound of The Beatles to the fashions of Mary Quant.

A 'High Street' will also have food stalls offering favourites, from the family butchers to the great British curry.

The festival runs from 11am-5pm and entry is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 01634 843666, email visitor.centre@medway.gov.uk or visit www.whatsonmedway.co.uk.

Tracy Beaker author to revive a literary monster

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S THE return of Kent's mystical creature, the Psammead.

In case you didn't know, this magical, but somewhat scary and miserable beast, lives by the sea in the county, but no-one is sure where.

Pronounced Sammyadd, it was the star of the globally-popular book, Five Children and It.

It was dreamt up by famous author Edith Nesbit, who also wrote The Railway Children, early last century. Incredibly, Five Children and It has never been out of print since 1902.

But Puffin Books has decided a reboot is now essential, and has commissioned another famous author, Jacqueline Wilson, to write the new book.

The former children's laureate and creator of Tracy Beaker will be responsible for bringing a more contemporary version to the bookshelves.

It tells of the adventures of five youngsters who move from London to the Kent countryside.

In a gravel pit, they stumble upon It, a sand fairy compelled to grant them a daily wish – all of which go hilariously wrong.

READ UP: The popular story of Five Children and It, by Edith Nesbit (inset) is set to return, thanks to the penmanship of Jacqueline Wilson

Jacqueline Wilson said the daunting job of updating such a classic is made easier thanks to her passionate love of Nesbit's work.

She said: "E Nesbit is my all-time favourite classic children's author, so I'm delighted to have this chance to write a contemporary version of Five Children and It. It will be a very exciting challenge."

She already has book sales soaring past the 25 million mark, and is one of the top three best-selling authors of the century. As well as being the former Children's Laureate, she was made a Dame in 2008.

In the original story, the effects of the children's wishes only last until dusk, but they never work out as they planned. When they wish to be beautiful, their servants don't recognise them and shut them out of the house.

And when they wish that their baby brother was older, the grown-up he becomes bosses them around too much.

The original trilogy left readers on a cliffhanger. The children ask for one final wish to help find some stolen gems, and although the Psammead is seen once more, the story narrator refuses to divulge the outcome.

Edith Nesbit, who published under the name E Nesbit, died in New Romney in 1924, aged 65, and is buried in the graveyard at St Mary in the Marsh. She spent three years in Halsted, the location that helped give birth to the Railway Children, and 21 years in Eltham.

She co-founded the Fabian Society in 1884 and had written about 40 books for children.

She also wrote for adults, including collections of horror stories.

Puffin Books said the new Five Children and It will be out next August.

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MOON RIVER: The sea at Folkestone lit up

Supermoon blamed as ships run aground

By **MATHEW BEECH**

mathew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

STAR gazers in Kent were treated to a 'supermoon' last weekend, as the Earth, Sun and the Moon aligned to create the astrological phenomenon.

Many amateur astrologers took the opportunity of clear skies and the bright full Moon on Saturday, March 19, to photograph the lunar event.

A perigee-syzygy, or supermoon, graced the night sky as our planet's natural satellite was at its closest point to us since January 30, 2010.

The Moon was just 221,567 miles from the Earth, about 17,000 miles closer than average, due to its elliptical orbit.

As the Moon's orbit brought it closer to the Earth, its effects on Kent's tides was marginally increased, creating slightly higher or lower levels. The effect was blamed for five ships running aground along the south coast.

Although the phenomenon occurs roughly four to six times a year, the next extreme supermoon, which will coincide with a full Moon, is expected to take place on November 14, 2016.

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Picture: BBC

CONNECTION: Elke Wisbey with her mum Glynnis and her guinea pig companion Tinkerbell

8-year fight with NHS wins £900k for paralysed child

A GIRL left paralysed and brain damaged because of a 15-minute delay in her birth has won a massive compensation payout – after an eight-year battle with the NHS.

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Little Elke Wisbey was starved of oxygen for those vital minutes – leaving her with permanent brain damage.

Elke was delivered by emergency Caesarean section at Maidstone Hospital, and now has to cope with quadriplegic cerebral palsy and will always need full-time care.

Now after eight years of legal claims and counter-claims, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has finally agreed to take some responsibility for her upbringing, but has stopped short of admitting any blame for Elke's condition.

It has agreed to pay an immediate lump sum of £900,000, plus annual index-linked payments of £100,000. This rises to £155,000 when she turns 19. The Trust said this is because it recognises the family's difficulties in coping with Elke's condition.

Agreement

The High Court was told this week a full hearing would not be needed after the agreement was reached – it's understood 12 days had been put aside to hear the case.

Mother Glynnis works as a consultant for the Body Shop and also as support staff for a Maidstone charity called M4S, which helps parents in similar situations.

At the family home in Bearsted, near Maidstone, Glynnis, 45, said: "The reason for bringing the court case was that we needed the security that something was going to be there for Elke once my husband Matt, an engineer, and I are not here any longer to look after her.

"They have settled on the basis of giving us enough money to improve the care that Elke is going to have for the rest of her life."

She said: "Every day is different, and we try to do the best for her. She has a lot of complex needs and is very susceptible to chest infections, so we are back at Maidstone Hospital quite regularly."

Comfort

One of Elke's favourite things is to cuddle her three-year-old pet guinea pig Tinkerbell, and cats Scooby and Shaggy.

Glynnis said: "Elke can't talk, but when she sees Tinkerbell, she is able to make it known she wants her out and on her lap.

"She loves Tinkerbell and it brings her a lot of comfort. Tinkerbell herself often calls out to Elke, and we get her out. It is fascinating the connection the two have for each other.

"If you allow yourself to dwell on the situation, it will eat you up, and that can destroy you and your family. I have concentrated on what Elke has given me.

"Her smiles and her giggles and her cuddles are absolutely wonderful. We are coping because we have to – we have no choice, but we are doing well."

Elke's lawyer said the hospital failed to recognise quickly enough the risks of Elke's breach position in the womb, and that if she had been born 15 minutes earlier she would have made a full recovery.

The Trust said: "The Trust, after detailed and careful consideration with its legal advisors and a number of medical experts, identified a number of complex issues for both parties in this case.

"No admission of liability was made, but a compromise was reached which acknowledged the risks of both parties and an understanding of the needs and difficulties of the family."

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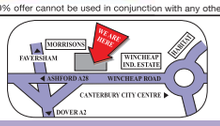

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Youth support group 'will survive the cuts'

EXCLUSIVE

By STEVE KNIGHT

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TIME is running out for the Connexions youth advice service, admits the chief executive of the charity's Kent branch.

Connexions offices up and down the country are feeling the full force of government spending cuts, with Kent currently going through a staff redundancy programme after taking a £4.8 million funding hit.

The service offers advice on education, careers, housing, money, health and relationships for 13-19 year olds.

But, despite his belief the brand will soon cease to exist on a national level, county chief executive Sean Kearns told KoS he is confident the charity has a future in Kent.

"I think government policy is changing and that the Connexions brand will go as a result," he said.

"But will Connexions Kent still be here? Yes we will, as a charity and social enterprise delivering support for young people.

"But we will have to go out and win new contracts with Kent County Council, with other local authorities, and with whoever is going to be commissioning the planned All Ages Careers Advisory Service.

"KCC has always valued its partnership with us and the contribution we have made, but with changing government policy and legislation we, like all organisations, will have to respond to those changes."

Last week the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) warned that young people could be let down by the Coalition as existing Connexions services are cut before new provisions are in place.

CHANGING ROLE: Chief executive Sean Kearns says Connexions will have to adapt

The headteachers' union estimates that two million young people will be affected by the gap in services between now and April next year, when the All Ages Careers Advisory Service is due to be launched.

Yet, despite having little option but to agree to a 19.5 per cent funding reduction on its now £20 million two-year contract with KCC, which starts next month, Mr Kearns said the situation for Connexions Kent could have been a lot worse.

He said: "We are a frontline service and the cut could have been less, but if you compare it with other branches across the country we've had a fair settlement. Others have been decimated and can't offer anywhere near the same level of service for young people.

"But then you can't take nearly £5m out of our budget over the next two years and expect it to not have an impact.

"We are going to lose frontline staff and advisers who do the day-to-day work."

Earlier this month it was revealed that 15.6 per cent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in the UK last December were classed as Neet – not in employment, education or training.

The 938,000 total was the highest final-quarter figure since 2005.

But Mr Kearns said this came as little surprise given the high rate of unemployment.

He said: "It's a fact that when employment demand reduces, supply increases, so employers are quite rightly more discerning of the skill level they are looking for.

"The barriers these young people face are the same as they were 12-18 months ago, but due to the economic situation they are now competing against others who have been out of the education system for two to three years and have had employment opportunities in the past.

"That's why organisations like Connexions are important in this difficult period, and part of the reason why we were formed back in 2001."

Find more news and sport updated daily www.kentnews.co.uk

Award for 999 operator who saved man's life

AN EMERGENCY operator who calmed a suicidal man who was harming himself as he spoke has received an award for public service.

Police call handler Sally Steadman was praised by the force for her actions in helping to locate the Sittingbourne resident, despite the distressing nature of the call, on March 30 last year.

She was among 35 emergency operators who received certificates from Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams at a ceremony last week.

"Police officers on the beat are often those who receive the plaudits, but we shouldn't forget the outstanding work that takes place within our control room," he said.

"Our call handlers are often placed under extreme pressure and their actions will often not only save lives, but help us catch criminals too.

"It was my pleasure to present these awards to a fantastic group of employees. This ceremony was about recognising and rewarding the contribution they make to policing in Kent."

Meanwhile, certificates were also presented to Supt Martin Very, Chief Insp David Pate and Insp John Betts for their work in setting up a centralised 'force resource unit'.

The unit manages spontaneous resource requirements and is based base in Aylesford.

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FOLKESTONE - CALAIS

NICK AMES reports on a successful seven-month tour of duty training Afghan

Making friends,

HEAD START: Col John Klink, left, with Lt Col Adam Griffith. INSET: USMC Shanghai plaque

KENT-based soldiers and US Marines have been working together in Afghanistan for the last six months – more than 70 years after they first acted side by side in China.

The two units are working to improve the capability of the Afghan National Police.

Teams from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland, and 1st Marine Division of the US Marine Corps have been jointly responsible for the training in Helmand Province.

The Canterbury-based troops are in the final weeks of a seven-month deployment. The regimental museum, based in Stirling Castle and headed by Major Bob Elliot, researched the archives to establish whether there was any record of them working together previously.

Maj Elliot discovered the 2nd Bn Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the 4th Regiment US Marines had served together in Shanghai in 1932-33. The Argylls had been deployed to China to "protect the foreign area from internal disorder and external aggression".

Shanghai was split into defence sectors controlled by different countries. One was held by US Marines. The Argylls took over a sector close by.

A plaque was presented to the Argylls by the Marines at the end of their deployment in the 1930s. To acknowledge their modern-day work in Afghanistan, Lt Col Adam Griffiths presented each Marine with a Glengarry, the formal headdress of the Scottish infantry soldier. In return, Col John Klink presented the Argylls with a divisional insignia and a USMC badge of rank.

INFANTRY soldiers from Kent have cleared insurgents out of an area of Helmand province in one of their final operations before returning home.

Four enemy were killed and two taken prisoner in the successful assault.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, based in Canterbury, worked alongside their partners from the 2nd Kandak Afghan Uniformed Police to conduct the 'advance to contact' – an operation to engage enemy fighters in an area known as Shindac Mandah, north of Patrol Base Attal in Lashkar Gah district.

Troops from Delta Company have been in Helmand since September, 2010, mentoring Afghan police officers who are increasingly taking over security responsibilities.

The soldiers return home in April. Their aim was to sweep away insurgents operating in the area and demonstrate to local people that the police and institutions of governance in Helmand are now in control and have complete freedom of movement.

These aims were achieved, with four insurgents killed plus two ringleaders in the community detained. A combined force of more than 100 men from the Argylls and the Afghan police headed towards an area known to be held by insurgents.

TOGETHER: Maj Nick Wight-Boycott with an Afghan National Police officer

They moved north, stopping for cups of chai and discussing the forthcoming harvest and plans to open a new school. But then things began to change. Families were seen hurriedly leaving compounds and the fields were empty of workers. Before long the British soldiers and Afghan police were engaged from five separate firing points.

The insurgent attack was well organised and although the firing points were spread far apart, they engaged the Delta Company troops simultaneously.

The troops and police took up positions and returned an overwhelming weight of fire.

The British and Afghans realised this was no half-hearted attack and due to the number of enemy positions each one would have to be cleared in turn.

The men of Delta Company have been under fire many times in recent months and know the ground well.

Company commander Major Nick Wight-Boycott confirmed the location of all the firing points and was able to coordinate a plan to suppress insurgent positions with artillery fire before sending in his troops. One by one, the positions were cleared. In the west, Lieutenant Luke McDonagh and his men ambushed two insurgents attempting to flee their position as the battle began to go Delta Company's way.

The insurgents fought hard but were cut down by Lt McDonagh's platoon. One died there, the other fell injured.

Lt McDonagh's men gave life-saving treatment to the injured insurgent before a helicopter was called to evacuate him to hospital in Camp Bastion.

He may have been saved, but once discharged from hospital he faces a life behind bars. The police captured an insurgent commander found hiding at the firing point nearby.

Meanwhile, in the centre of the village, Sergeant Frankie Kerr and his men were taking heavy fire from a position to their north. A combination of artillery and an air strike gave them the space to advance to the insurgent positions, covered by fire from Lt James Cook and his group of men.

As Sgt Kerr and his platoon cleared the positions, killing the insurgents, they were engaged once more by machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

An attack helicopter was called in which identified the position and stopped the incoming rounds by firing a Hellfire missile.

Air support passed a message to Maj Wight-Boycott that remaining insurgents could be seen recovering their dead to the north.

Delta Company pushed on, pressing home the advantage they had built and forcing the remaining insurgents to give up trying to recover bodies and flee the area.

Maj Wight-Boycott said: "The operation was a significant blow to the insurgency.

"The combination of such aggressive patrols targeting the insurgency directly, with increased development and support of the civilian population, has seen the insurgents' support base and ability to operate considerably eroded over recent months.

"For the men of Delta Company it was an excellent day. Counter-insurgency is hard work – partnering the police, protecting the people, fighting the insurgents, all with the constant, ever-present threat of IEDs weighing heavily on young soldiers' minds.

"Opportunities to go on the offensive and ruthlessly pursue the insurgents do not come around every day. When they do, morale is high for soldiers."

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police which saw Kent-based troops renew an old partnership with US Marines

meeting the foe

ON THE ATTACK: Argylls during operational sweep. INSET: Lt Luke McDonagh talks tactics

RIGHT: Cpl Ian Crews of 5 Scots, with one of the Afghan police he mentors and who was involved in the operation to free a boy

EXPERT training from Canterbury-based soldiers enabled Afghan police to free a 13-year-old boy held hostage by two insurgent kidnappers.

He had been snatched nine months previously in the Nad-e Ali district, where he lived in the village of Shawal Kalay with his father, a civil servant in the district government.

The local Afghan police, who are mentored by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, launched an operation to arrest the kidnappers and free the boy after receiving intelligence from villagers.

The chief of police for Nad-e Ali, Lt Col Shadi Khan, who oversaw the operation, believes the kidnappers wished to extort and punish the boy's father because he worked for the government.

Captain Niall Archibald, of the Argylls, said: "The police action in freeing this kidnap victim demonstrates the high level of professionalism and capability they are reaching in Helmand. Critically, this operation was conducted completely unassisted by NATO troops.

"A key development of late has been increasingly to view insurgent activity as criminal acts rather than acts of war. Viewing them this way puts the emphasis on the Afghan police to take primacy in the counter-insurgency effort.

"As such, crime-scene exploitation, evidence handling and deeper understanding of powers of arrest and detention are now the focus of training for the police and they are making great progress."

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Phoebe, 16, hoping to sing her way to O2

By **NICK AMES**
nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

SINGER-songwriter Phoebe Warden has wowed the judging panel of a nationwide music competition and sailed through the audition stage of Live and Unsigned.

TOP TUNES: Singer Phoebe Warden

The Stelling Minnis singer will now compete against the most talented bands and artists in the country at the regional final of Live and Unsigned 2011.

Live and Unsigned is the biggest original music competition in the UK for unsigned bands and artists and has attracted more than 50,000 entries in the past five years.

Phoebe, 16, said: "It's a really good standard and the next round is in Bedford on Saturday, April 2.

"To be honest I'm not sure how I'll get on, but I love performing live."

Phoebe has been singing for three years and wrote her first song last July. Now she is hoping for an appearance at the O2 as one of the competition finalists and a share of the £100,000 worth of prizes.

She has just finished recording an EP at Ten21 Studio in Bearsted.

"I listen to music which makes me want to write," the teenager said. "It might be older stuff like The Temptations or The Contours, and I really love The Beatles.

"More up to date, I like Kings of Leon and Kate Nash. They inspire me, but I don't try and write songs like them I have my own style.

"I write for my age group, but I hope my songs have a wider appeal."

JUDGES: Phoebe Warden hopes to impress the likes of rapper Apache Indian and Noddy Holder

Judges for the events around the UK include former Slade singer Noddy Holder, DJ Annie Nightingale, Mike Joyce formerly of The Smiths, and rapper Apache Indian.

Prizes include a management contract with Future Music, a World Tour taking in Australasia, Asia, America and Europe, a trip to Italy and a slot at a European music festival.

The winning act will also travel to India and will play in a global battle of the bands.

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PUPILS have been improving their reading skills – with the help of dogs.

Janice Kingman, headteacher of Brunswick House Primary School, Maidstone, is backing the Kent Schools' Reading To Dogs scheme, following the successful visits made by Peter Glover and his dog Talent.

This led to her own dog Grace being trained up and she now comes into school every Wednesday.

While reading aloud in a classroom can be a daunting experience for children, reading to dogs helps them to build confidence, as they won't feel that they're being judged, say organisers.

Mrs Kingman said: "The scheme has been incredibly successful, more successful than we ever thought it could have been.

"It has certainly boosted the self-esteem and reading skills of the children who have been involved. It is a very comfortable situation for the children because the dog isn't going to be judgmental and we do as little intervening as possible.

"I know some people smile and say it's just a gimmick and so on. Sometimes gimmicks are the things that get to children who have been really hard to reach in their reading. I would thoroughly recommend it."

Anyone who would like to volunteer with their dog can call Peter Glover on 07932 113582 or email peter-glover@tiscali.co.uk.

WOOF: Sophie and Mitchell with dog Grace

Top police officer found hanged in his garage

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S former assistant chief constable has been found hanged, just as an investigation into alleged sexist comments made to female colleagues was coming to an end.

Some of the allegations are understood to have come from a civilian and junior officer from Kent.

HANGED: David Ainsworth

David Ainsworth, known as 'The Brain' for his intelligence, moved from the Kent force to Wiltshire to take up the position of deputy chief constable on a reputed £110,000 a year.

The force said the investigation was headed by one of Britain's top female officers, Colette Paul, the deputy chief constable of South Wales.

Reports said it was connected with remarks he allegedly made to female workmates. One comment being looked at was "nice buttons" when he spotted a female officer in a tailored blouse.

Wiltshire police said Mr Ainsworth was found hanged at his home. His estranged wife Emma still lives in Coxheath and has not made any comment.

The 49-year-old officer was relieved of his duties last September while the inquiry was conducted. It is reported that officers were looking at a possible 24 incidents of inappropriate behaviour.

The body of the father of four was found inside his garage by a girlfriend, according to neighbours who heard a scream.

They said she'd yelled: "He's hanged himself, he's hanged himself."

Criminal charges were unlikely, but there was a possibility of a police disciplinary hearing, depending on the outcome of the investigation. An employment tribunal was also on the cards if any of the colleagues had wanted to take it further.

Another outside force is to now carry out another investigation to ensure the officer was given sufficient emotional support before apparently taking his own life.

Mr Ainsworth spent 22 years with the Kent force before moving to Wiltshire in 2008, when he split from his wife. At the time, their three daughters were teenagers and their son was 12.

After the allegations of inappropriate comments, he was moved to a temporary position with the Forensic Science Service in Birmingham.

Mr Ainsworth was living in the quiet village of Potterne near Devizes.

Wiltshire Police said: "We can confirm that Deputy Chief Constable David Ainsworth was found dead at his home.

"Our thoughts are very much with David's family and friends."

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Recreating face of murdered bishop

By **NICK AMES**

nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCAN has been carried out on the mummified skull of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, who was beheaded during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381.

Images will now be used to create a facial likeness of Simon Theobald – Simon of Sudbury – who was also once Lord Chancellor of England.

He was killed outside the Tower of London and axe marks can be seen on his remains.

The skull is usually kept at St Gregory's Church in Sudbury, Suffolk, where it was taken after being mounted on a pole on London Bridge following his death.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson from Dundee University is overseeing the project.

She said: "I have dealt with ancient Egyptians, bodies preserved in bogs, and remains which need to be identified by the police.

"The unusual thing was seeing the head in the hole in the wall in the church.

"I was expecting the bone to be a little bit more fragile, because this has been in the wall of a church for 600 years, but actually the bone is very sturdy.

"It's a very interesting project and you can see, looking at the vertebrae which are attached, what looks to be a cut.

Horrific

"Written accounts of the Archbishop's death sound horrific. It is believed after the first blow he put his hand to the back of his neck and a second blow cut his fingers off. It does not seem that he died quickly."

Prof Wilkinson is an expert in forensic anthropology, and specialises in craniofacial identification.

She was there when the skull was taken from its church perch to a nearby hospital in Bury St Edmunds, where the scan took place.

"The scan was necessary to identify what was the skull and what were parts of soft tissue still attached. It's called a CT scan, and is usually used on living people.

"A large number of X-rays are used to build up a picture of the skull so an accurate representation can be made.

"What that is completed, in this case a plastic model will be created – so we can all see what he looked like."

MURDER: The skull of Simon Theobald shows axe marks on the neck

Jenny Seggar, curate at St Gregory's, said Theobald was born into a prominent local family.

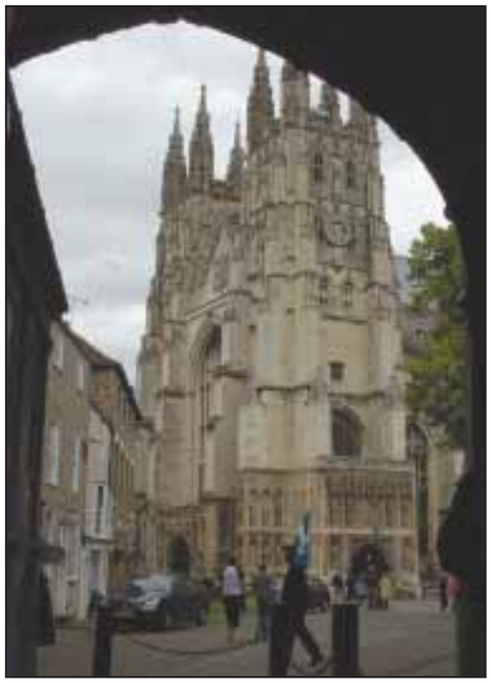
"He was brought up in the area, went to university in Cambridge and Paris, then he took various senior church jobs until he became Archbishop of Canterbury," she said.

The church hopes the facial reconstruction will be complete by the end of summer.

The peasants had a particular hatred for the Archbishop, and Kentish insurgents attacked and damaged his property at Canterbury and Lambeth, then, rushing into the Tower of London, they seized the Archbishop himself.

So unpopular was the cleric that guards allowed the rebels through the gates.

Theobald was dragged to Tower Hill and, on June 14, 1381, was beheaded. His body was buried in Canterbury Cathedral – minus the head.



RELIGIOUS ICON: From his base of Canterbury Cathedral, Simon Theobald was leader of the Church of England

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650mm Vanity Unit.
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- 1 x close coupled toilet
- 1 x seat
- 1 x basin & pedestal
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- 1 x basin waste
- 1 x pair solo basin taps
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- 1 x bath side panel

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Top design may vary
700mm end panel NOT included

Showers

- Modern bar shower kit
- Thermostatic
- Riser kit included
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Winter Saver £58.00
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- Victorian shower
- Surface mounted
- 4 inch rose head
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Winter Saver £169.00
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Galaxy

NOW £58.00

- Galaxy contract 4 piece set
- 1 x basin. 1 or 2 tap hole
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- 1 x close coupled pan
- 1 year warranty
- List £129.00

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Galaxy Shower Bath

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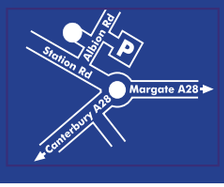

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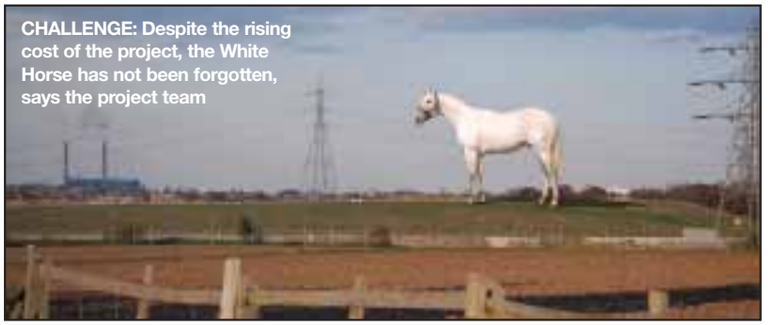

CHALLENGE: Despite the rising cost of the project, the White Horse has not been forgotten, says the project team

'We're still going ahead with plan for White Horse'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to build a 50-metre horse sculpture in north Kent have not been put on hold, insists the team behind the development.

Few details have been released about the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project (ELP) since last July, when it was revealed the estimated cost of building the giant artwork had rocketed from £2 million to between £10m and £12m.

This is in stark contrast to the global wave of publicity that followed the unveiling of the horse – designed by Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger – as the winner of the ELP back in January, 2009.

And despite the economic collapse which followed, the team behind the development insists the sculpture will be built.

An ELP spokesman said: "The fundraising efforts continue, companies have been committing sponsorship and there have been some successes, but we're not there yet.

Challenges

"The programme has never stood still. Whenever you set about these things you need to overcome a series of challenges in the right order, and attracting funding is obviously one of them."

Mr Wallinger fought off tough competition from four other internationally-acclaimed artists to win the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project competition.

His horse will be 33 times larger than the Riviera Red racehorse on which he based the sculpture, and will look out over the new Ebbsfleet Valley development.

Part-funded by Eurostar, Land Securities and London and Continental Railways, the artwork was originally due to be completed in time for next year's London Olympics.

The ELP spokesman said: "You can't really go out to market to potential financiers until you can offer them the best level of certainty that you can.

"Each of the hurdles we have cleared – selecting the design, obtaining planning permission and so on – have added to that certainty, so we're still on course."

Meanwhile, there are also question marks over the future of a proposed 100ft Invicta horse statue on the hills between Dover and Folkestone.

Artist and sculptor Ian Morrison, from Wingham, came up with the idea after feeling disappointed that the Ebbsfleet project was of a horse on all four legs, as opposed to the "prancing" nature of Kent's Invicta symbol.

Mr Morrison declined to comment on the status of the plans, which have the backing of Kent County Council, but it is believed an announcement could be made within the next four to six weeks.

BUSINESSMEN and women keen to make the most of opportunities presented by the Olympics have been invited to the Better Breakfast at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Thursday, March 31.

At the event from 7.30-9am there will be a lecture from Stephanie Holt on the Impact of the 2012 Olympics in Kent.

Ms Holt is Kent County Council's manager for the 2012 Games, responsible for coordinating a group of private and public sector partners. The aim is to identify the opportunities and maximise the legacy to Kent, from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For more details and to book email Alison or Louise on conference-sales@priestfield.com or call 01634 300000.

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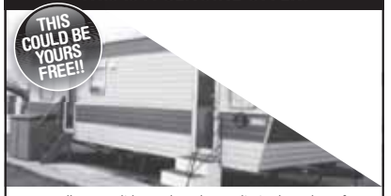

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LETTER OF THE WEEK

Grammars of benefit to all

Your story headlined Grammar schools 'no benefit in getting working class children up the social ladder' (March 13) is incorrect both in tone and fact.

The study shows clearly that grammar schools are a benefit to children, regarding both income and social mobility prospects.

Indeed here is a quote from the report stating precisely that: "As far as absolute mobility chances are concerned, working-class origin pupils appear to reap a mobility advantage from attending grammar schools rather than comprehensives."

The report actually shows that working-class children are not more likely than children from other social groups to be socially mobile by attending a grammar. This is only to be expected – a grammar school should enable all children to access the full range of their abilities, so it is of benefit to all students.

The UK Independence Party fully supports our grammar schools in Kent and nationwide, unlike the other major parties.

Nigel Farage MEP, leader, UK Independence Party, Westerham

Respect for the Japanese

I do not think I have ever thought more of any people than the Japanese after their recent troubles.

Not only are they brave, they have shown so much support to their fellow countrymen and their community spirit has been faultless. So much misery for so many to face, but they have shown dignity. No-one has been found pilfering and stealing other's property.

If this had happened in our country, could we have guaranteed the same?

Carole Russell, Ramsgate

OPINION: THE FUTURE IS NUCLEAR

Nuclear power must still be part of our future plans despite the tragedy in Japan, argues **DAMIAN COLLINS**, Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe

TODAY is my son Hugo's second birthday, and like any parent with young children I am concerned about the future and the world they will inherit.

We know that, with a growing world population, the industrialisation of the emerging economies of China, Russia, India and Brazil, and pressures to switch to low carbon sources of energy to combat climate change, we have some big challenges ahead. Over the last few weeks there has been one big story in the news that should give us cause for concern, about how we will ensure a secure supply of energy to keep the lights on in our economy, and that is not the earthquake in Japan, but the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East.

The potential progress of those societies from dictatorship to democracy is incredibly important, and a reminder of the revolutions that swept away communism in Eastern Europe in 1989-90.

However, the situation there, particularly in countries like Saudi Arabia and Libya, has reminded us how instability in that region can affect the world. Any major disturbance in oil production could restrict supply, damaging economies and putting up prices.

Greater security in our energy sources, so that we are less reliant on imported oil from the Middle East, or gas from the former Soviet republics, as supplies from the North Sea start to run down, is therefore increasingly important.

Whilst renewable energy from the wind and the sea has a positive contribution to make, the technology that can deliver us a secure supply of low carbon power is nuclear energy.

Since my election I have been campaigning for the Government to include Dungeness on the list of recommended sites for a new nuclear power station, and understandably the earthquake in Japan and subsequent damage to the reactors at Fukushima has led people to ask whether we can still rely on this technology.

The earthquake in Japan was a very significant event, and in fact third greatest ever recorded. We can, of course, take some reassurance from the fact that Great Britain is a very low risk area for major earthquakes. We sit in the middle of one of the plates on the Earth's surface, whereas Japan is at the junction of four, which means that like California, it experiences the kind of very major earthquakes that we do not get here.

Despite the size of the earthquake and the tsunami it created, the reactors in Japan were not damaged directly by either, but by a fault that meant that there was not an adequate back-up supply of energy to keep the reactor's cooling systems running. We do not have any power stations built to this 1960s design in the UK.

Nuclear power in the UK has an excellent safety record and an important role to play in meeting our future energy needs – a point I made just over a week ago to the Prime Minister at Question Time in the House of Commons. He responded, agreeing that "I do think that nuclear power should be part of the mix in future, as it is part of the mix right now."

That does not of course mean that we should not look carefully at what has happened in Japan.

The Government has asked the chief nuclear inspector, Mike Weightman, to conduct a safety report on Britain's nuclear power stations. This is due to be published later in May and will also be considered by the Government when giving approval for new power stations to be built.

The Government also assesses the risks to nuclear power stations from earthquakes and severe weather from the sea, like a tsunami.

Dungeness passed these tests in its site report, so they would not be a barrier to a new power station being built here. In the case of Dungeness the flood defences and the safety operations needed to turn off and cool down the reactor if there were a major incident have been carefully planned and are constantly assessed.

For Dungeness these are based on the safety plans being successful against a one in 10,000-year flood event which would be typically associated with a tsunami wave.

KOS media COMMENT

Osborne's budget lacked enterprise

SIX months ago, county council leader Paul Carter warned the Government not to be taken in by the "myth" that Kent is an completely prosperous county.

He was concerned that because the South East is perceived by many as being universally wealthy, deprived areas such as those in Thanet and Medway would suffer from not getting as much help as similar areas in the North.

Judging by the new Enterprise Zone scheme announced in George Osborne's Budget this week, the Government has ignored Cllr Carter's words of wisdom.

Despite Pfizer's withdrawal from Kent being one of the biggest business stories of the year so far, its current site in Sandwich was not one of the 21 zones announced so far – almost all of which are in the North.

Given the publicity surrounding the exit of the pharmaceutical giant – which could lead to the loss of about 5,000 jobs – it is baffling as to why Sandwich has been left off the list.

One would be forgiven for thinking that with the infrastructure and first-class technology already in place, it would be the obvious choice for such an Enterprise Zone.

It seems that yet again the Government has taken one look at wealthy towns such as Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury and decided that the people of Kent do not need its help.

But unless it steps in and offers some financial assistance to revitalise Sandwich once Pfizer goes, it could have an economic disaster on its hands.

Star Taylor lapped up life on county estate

IT'S NICE to know that long before Elizabeth Taylor started out on her glittering movie career, she spent her summers on a country estate in Cranbrook.

So many stars have enjoyed the sights and sounds of Kent over the years, but they do not come any more famous than Hollywood's original glamour girl.

She will be sorely missed.

Principles give way to power

I was surprised to read the comments of my former Labour Party colleague, Rehman Chishti, about the visit of Ed Balls to MidKent College's Medway campus.

It wasn't so long ago that Mr Chishti would have been first in the queue to shake the hand of a Labour frontbencher, and doubtless be photographed doing so.

As to Mr Balls' visit being a "marketing ploy", it certainly was. It gave the hard-working catering and hospitality staff and students of MidKent College the chance to show off their skills and prove they can put on a prestige event.

The food and service were first-class and greatly appreciated by all. The college's Pavilion restaurant, which is open to the public at lunchtimes, and on Thursday evenings for fine dining, gives students an opportunity to expand their training and to work in a demanding and professional environment. If Mr Chishti is so proud of Medway, perhaps he might have taken the opportunity to applaud the fact the Labour government, which only a few years ago he was so eager to join, invested £89 million to build MidKent College's Medway campus, in order to help with the regeneration of Medway and to provide first-class facilities for our young people.

Perhaps he might show the extent of his concern for the area in which he lives by asking his Government why they are stopping the Education Maintenance Allowance and increasing higher education fees to £9,000 per year, both measures which will make it harder for Medway's youngsters to obtain skills and qualifications.

He might also ask why they stopped the Building Schools for the Future programme. How long before we see a return to the conditions that my son, among thousands of others, endured in the days of the Thatcher government of the 1980s, when half of the portable 'temporary' classrooms at his school were out of action every time it rained?

Mr Chishti trots out his new friends' tired old cliché about the country being on the "brink of bankruptcy" because of the last government.

Along with his principles, Mr Chishti seems to have forgotten that most of Europe, and the USA, were affected by the near-meltdown of the global banking and financial services system.

Britain is still a rich country and our level of debt as a proportion of GDP is perfectly manageable. What isn't manageable is the degree to which the ideologically-driven cuts in public expenditure will hurt the vulnerable, whose cause Mr Chishti so passionately espoused when he was a member of Labour.

Still, who cares about principles when you have a shot at power?

Harry Keane, Rainham

Making your vote count

There seems to be a great deal of confusion in the lead-up to the referendum on May 5 on how the alternative vote system works.

This is a stumbling block to moving on to the main discussion about why AV is an improvement on the first past the post (FPTP) system.

In AV, the voter gets the choice of as many preference votes as they wish – from choosing only one candidate on the ballot paper, all the way to ranking all of them, or anything in between.

The winning candidate under AV has to get 50 per cent of the vote, or more, to get elected. If, after counting first preference votes, the leading candidate does not get 50 per cent of votes cast, then the bottom candidate drops out, and their second preference votes are then counted.

If still no candidate gets 50 per cent of the votes, then the next bottom candidate drops out, and their third preference votes are redistributed.

This goes on until someone reaches the threshold of 50 per cent of the votes. This is an important 'fix' to FPTP, as it allows people to vote for minority parties, while still allowing them to transfer their vote to other parties.

FPTP discourages people in voting for minor parties, because anyone doing so, 'wastes' their vote. AV allows the voter the freedom of voting however they want, but having the knowledge that their vote will still be counted.

FPTP favours the two main parties, by allowing a candidate from those parties to continually get elected, often on fewer than a third of votes cast.

This creates safe seats, and means the only seats which matter are the few marginal ones around the country, which change hands from time to time.

As more people become disillusioned because their vote no longer counts, the more the FPTP system is going to break down, and throw up unrepresentative coalitions.

AV would not allow MPs from extremist parties, like the BNP, to gain seats, as they would be unlikely to be able to get wide enough support to achieve the 50 per cent threshold.

Michael Wright, Broadstairs

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ALWAN
Jimmy, born on 28th February 2011, weighing 6lbs 11ozs. Son to Siad Alwan and Hannah Game in Dover.

HARRINGTON
Leeanne and Christopher are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Eliza May Harrington on 23rd February 2011 weighing 9lb 2oz.

JOHNSON
Charlotte and Mark Johnson celebrate the birth of their son Andrew Peter Harpur Johnson on the 7th March 2011, weighing 8lb 13oz.

MACKENZIE
Elizabeth May born on 8th March 2011, weighing 8lbs 12ozs. Daughter to Ian and Lisa Mackenzie in Margate.

MAHON
Jessica Rose Mahon was born on the 2nd March 2011 at 9:57am at Darent Valley Hospital and she weighed 7lb 3oz. Her proud parents Andrew and Karen are absolutely delighted with her safe arrival and are looking forward to introducing her to all their family and friends.

McGURK-BRIGNELL
Micaela and Tom of Broadstairs are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Charlotte Amelia McGurk-Brignell, born at QEQM Hospital on 15th February 2011, weighing 6lb 8oz. Our little nugget.

MIDMER
Emmie-Rose born to Steven and Charlotte on the 14th March 2011.

O'HARA
Melanie and Richard celebrate the birth of their daughter Daisy Mae OHara on 2nd March 2011.

O'MAHONEY
Kimberley James and Liam O'Mahoney would like to welcome their son Ryan Thomas O'Mahoney into the world, born on the 10th March 2011, weighing 6lb 9oz.

QUINN
Richard and Sam celebrate the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lilly Grace Quinn, born on 7th March 2011, weighing 7lb 6oz.

ROSS
Penelope Ann Ross born on the 13th March 2011, weighing 6lb 15oz. Daughter to Steven and Hayley of Folkestone.

WILLIAMS
Arron and Donna are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Emily Christine Williams, who was born at 21:05pm on the 8th March 2011 and weighed 8lb 7oz.

DEATHS

CHURCH
Andy Church, accomplished sportsman and devoted father, sadly passed away on 11th March 2011. The funeral to be held at Christ Church, Echo Square, at 2pm on the 28th March 2011. Sadly missed by family and friends.

EDGLEY
Beryl Patricia of Kingsdown passed away peacefully on 17th March 2011 after a long illness. Enquiries to E. B. Cavell 01304 373275.

FITZPATRICK
Annie Fitzpatrick of Lydd, passed away on the 15th March 2011. Enquiries to Romney Marsh Funeral Services.

HUGHES
Margaret Hughes, formerly of Maidstone and Tenterden, died peacefully on 8th March 2011, aged 89 years. Much loved mother of John and Jennifer and Grandmother of Iain. Donations may be made to Kent Air Ambulance.

RATCLIFFE
Richard Hartington Ratcliffe died at home in his daughter's arms on Sunday 6th March at midnight. A loyal and doting husband, amazing father, exciting grandfather and wonderful friend. A huge loss to all who knew him, will be missed by all. Please contact Farriers Funeral Directors for information of the funeral arrangements.

STENT
Edgar William (George), suddenly at home on 6th March. Thanksgiving at St Peter and St Paul, 1st April, at 2.30pm

STRATTON
Ethel Lilian Stratton, died Saturday 12th March, aged 94. Funeral at Western-Super-Mare Crematorium, 1st April at 2pm. Please contact Sue Masters (Niece), 01934 842018.

WILLIAMS
Albert John Williams of Chilham passed away on 15th March 2011 at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford. A much loved dad , grandad and friend who will be deeply missed. The funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday 30th March at 12.40. All flowers welcome, or if desired, donations to Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury.

Join our march for the alternative

The effects of the Government's deep cuts in public spending are now being felt by communities across the UK.

Not only are hundreds of thousands of jobs being lost in both the public and private sectors, but vital public services – upon which some of the most vulnerable in our society depend – are being scaled down or disappearing altogether.

Price Waterhouse Coopers has calculated that 112,000 public sector jobs will be lost in the South East and that many tens of thousands more private sector jobs will be lost in the region by 2014-15 as a result of the Government's spending cuts.

Every community in the South East is now being confronted by the impact of the spending cuts, which will be felt most harshly by the vulnerable, such as children, the elderly and less well-off families. But it is inevitable that every person and every business will endure the detriment of these cuts.

Please believe me, trade unions are not 'deficit deniers'. We know that public finances must balance in the long-term and we want an economy that is successful for all. But it is the Government that is in denial about the importance of growth and the impact of its cuts on the economy. These cuts are unnecessary, unfair and positively dangerous.

In the last week unemployment in Britain has risen to its highest level for 17 years. Tragically, more than one in five 16-24 year-olds are now unemployed, and the OECD has again lowered its prediction for Britain's growth rate to a dismal 1.5 per cent for 2011.

That's why we're hoping that hundreds of residents from every community in the South East will join the tens of thousands of ordinary men, women and children converging on central London on Saturday, March 26, to take part in the TUC's peaceful 'march for the alternative', against the cuts, and for jobs, growth and social justice for all.

Leaving the Victoria Embankment from midday, the marchers are heading to Hyde Park for an afternoon rally, which starts at 1.30pm – more details of which can be found at http://marchforthealternative.org.uk/

To find out more about transport to London, please see http://falseeconomy.org.uk/themarch to determine if there are coaches or trains leaving from where you live. And if you or your family is being affected by the cuts, and you'd like to tell the TUC your story, please email marchforthealternative@tuc.org.uk.

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing. Please do not sleepwalk into a less fair and nastier Britain. There is a better way. You have a voice. Please join us on the demonstration on March 26 and make your voice heard.

Megan Dobney, TUC regional secretary for the South East

Cancer patients denied vital help

The Government has turned its back on vulnerable cancer patients and the terminally ill.

The new Warm Home Discount scheme is supposed to help those most in need, but ignores the two thirds of cancer patients struggling to pay their bills.

People with cancer often have high energy bills due to spending long periods of time at home during treatment or recovery, and may feel the cold more because of their condition. Often these higher bills coincide with an average 50 per cent drop in household income, because many cancer patients are unable to work.

The Warm Home Discount comes into force in April and obliges energy companies to provide financial assistance to vulnerable people struggling to pay their energy bills. Despite strong public support for Macmillan's campaigns, the Government has rejected calls to automatically give people who are terminally ill the rebate and to prioritise cancer patients most at risk of fuel poverty in the scheme.

Macmillan estimates the cost of including people with a terminal illness in the scheme to be less than four per cent of the fund. Sadly, cancer patients who are vulnerable to fuel poverty look set to carry on missing out on much-needed financial help.

Put pressure on the Government to end the misery of thousands of cancer patients who turn off their heating because they're worried about energy bills.

You can show your support by joining the thousands who have already signed Macmillan's woolly scarf petition at www.infi-knit.org.uk

Annie Morgan, Tunbridge Wells

Making way for young generation

I would like to announce that I will not be standing for re-election at Birchington Parish Council come the election in May.

I feel the time has now come to give a younger generation the opportunity to serve the people of Birchington. I would like to thank everyone for the support that I have received since being elected, and I look forward to spending more time with my animal welfare work. I will miss working with my colleagues, especially councillors Margaret Sheldrick, John Worrow and Julie Francis, who have become dear friends.

Thank you, Birchington!

Cllr Jean Fleming, Birchington Parish Council

Time to act on over-population

I rarely agree with Phil Granger, especially when he buttresses his arguments with Biblical quotations. However, his reference to over-population is spot on, even though I'm not convinced it is the cause of flooding.

Overpopulation, and a constant increase in that population, is probably the root cause of many of the problems besetting not only this country but also the world. We can't do much about the world, but we ought to be able to do something in our own country.

The human race is the only animal species not to fit its population to the resources available. The Earth has finite resources, yet our demands for food, water and energy supplies continue to increase. The system is not sustainable.

In the late 1970s, Fred Hoyle pointed out the imbalance between an exponential population growth and a depletion of cheap natural energy sources. The future he painted was bleak and he predicted that, unless populations stabilised and gradually reduced, there would be a collapse of our present civilisation within this century. Looking back over the last 30 years, I'd say the process was well under way.

Dave Stewart, Deal

New homes add to flood concerns

Phil Granger chooses to disagree with the scientific academies of the top 13 countries in the world, and our own Met Office, that global warming is added to by human activities. He is opposing the international scientific consensus on the subject.

Opinion, without acknowledging the consensual scientific evidence, has no value.

He is, however, nearer to reality in making a link between over-population, tarmac and concrete covering our landscape and flooding. Kent is in the unusual position of having a population growth rate far higher than the national average.

The main reason for this, according to the County Council's draft Local Transport Plan, is people moving out of London into Kent.

Instead of meeting this demand by putting Kent and Medway's estimated 22,000 empty homes, 6,000 empty industrial buildings and countless long-term empty shopfronts into use, councils have generally supported building more houses. Worse, they have chosen to build on areas prone to flooding.

Global warming increases moisture in the atmosphere, through evaporation as a result of higher average temperatures. This makes more extreme weather events more frequent. The rapid rise in extreme weather events afflicting the UK and many other parts of the world is consistent with this process.

In short, more flooding in Kent can be expected to follow the severe floods we have seen over the last 15 years or so.

New homes, where actually needed, should be on brownfield sites where the risks of flooding are minimal. Of course, it would help if our Government had better policies on both global warming and fostering regional development in the areas of the country which need it most.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

UKIP is the only real alternative

As local Tories retreat into introspection following their defeat in the Pembury by-election, one has to say that the decline in the Conservative vote was not surprising.

It was caused by the resignation of councillor Mike Tompsett, who resigned in protest at the way his fellow Conservative borough councillors had passed a vote of no confidence in their colleague (and the former leader of the Borough Council) Roy Bullock, after Bullock made a number of gaffes.

What was surprising, however, was that the percentage of electors who voted in the by-election was only slightly down on the low turnout one normally sees in an local government election, which shows that the electorate are angry and keen to express their opinion.

Following Tompsett's resignation, the Conservatives did not help themselves by selecting a 'Johnny Come-Lately' (aka Robert Rutherford) as their candidate, whilst the Lib Dems made a big thing about the fact that their candidate (Claire Brown) was the only candidate to actually live in Pembury.

On the doorstep, however, I detected a real and growing anger at the Coalition Government nationally, which was reflected by the turnout in the by-election and growing support for Ukip, as locally, Ukip is the only real opposition to the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in local authority and parliamentary elections.

I do not wish to be over-optimistic about how Ukip's vote will hold up in the borough council elections on May 5 but, if Vic Webb's vote in the Pembury by-election is anything to go by, I believe the Tories have every reason to be scared of Ukip.

And before Conservatives accuse Ukip of splitting the vote and letting a centre-left pro-EU party in, may one add that it is now not only on the all-important issue of whether we remain in the EU or not, that one finds the similarities between the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats are far greater than the differences between them... to the extent that any sensible voter who believes in minimal government now only has one party to vote for, ie Ukip, if one is to save our country and community from the abyss.

Christopher Luke, Tunbridge Wells

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent

Keep Kent Working! It's jobs for Kent 2011 Campaign

Emergency crews' road test course

A COURSE designed to provide firefighters with the skills needed to drive fire engines in emergencies has been accredited by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

The 10-day Emergency Fire Appliance Driver (EFAD) course is delivered at Kent Fire and Rescue Service's driving school in Maidstone.

To get the qualification, firefighters need to complete a written theory test and practical assessments on a variety of roads and traffic conditions.

Driving school manager Jim Wilton said: "When many people think of the fire and rescue service, they often think of fire engines rushing to the scene of an accident on blue lights.

"And while these vehicles are the most widely used by firefighters, what many people do not realise is that their construction, shape, power and weight distributions are mechanisms that create unique limitations for drivers.

"Emergency fire service drivers carry a great deal of responsibility – such as ensuring their fellow colleagues and other road users' safety – so it's crucial that we have staff expertly trained."

Normally firefighters who complete the EFAD course would have to then take the IAM advanced driving test.

However, because the Kent version is to such a high standard, IAM assessors have deemed those passing exempt from the process.

Mr Wilton said: "Our qualified drivers demonstrate that they possess the first-class mental and physical decision-making and observation skills needed to ensure complete control of their vehicle at all times.

"In highly stress-filled situations, they will predict, identify and respond to potential hazards that could impact on the health and safety of our staff and other road-users, while being conscious of arriving as quickly as possible to the scene of an incident."

EXPERT ACCESS: Uwe Derksen (second right) with the Edge team

Sharpening your act with a creative Edge

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE University for the Creative Arts has launched a new service offering businesses across Kent and beyond access to its facilities and experts.

Entitled 'Edge', the scheme has already worked with Kent County Council's 2012 Olympics campaign as well as with the clothing manufacturer Funzee and even the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation.

The experts based at UCA – which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester – offer consultancy and bespoke in-house training to businesses, as well as access to their technical facilities.

"We have a huge pool of highly qualified and very talented people at UCA who have a great deal to offer outside of our campuses," said Uwe Derksen, assistant director of research and enterprise.

"Their expertise reaches across a wide variety of creative sectors while the technical facilities we offer match or exceed the current industry standard, so we really believe we can give our clients the edge they are looking for, no matter what they require.

"Edge also offers the university another source of income, which is particularly important at the moment with the huge cuts to education funding that we are facing over the coming months."

Last week, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which sets university grants, revealed that UCA's budget will be cut by about nine per cent this year.

The Edge project, which is the brainchild of the university's research and enterprise department, offers creative expertise and services in a wide range of in-demand industry sectors.

These include 3D digital design, architecture, film, media, marketing, fashion design, fine art, product design and more.

UCA has collaborated with businesses in the past but consultancy inquiries have increased rapidly in recent months, leading to the formation of Edge and the compilation of a staff database.

Funzee, which manufactures all-in-one nightwear for adults, is one of the companies to have benefited from the service thus far.

Owner Mark Heselgrave said: "Edge helped me with a sizing issue that was stalling the company's growth – too many of the suits we produce were being returned.

"The consultant helped me make my sizing more scientific, which has led to fewer returns, an increase in profits and, of course, more happy customers."

Edge's website features a unique experts' directory which allows visitors to read about each consultant's previous experience and subject areas. It also contains the full list of services Edge offers, as well as case studies from recent projects. Log on to www.ucaedge.com for more information. Alternatively, email edge@ucreative.ac.uk or call 01622 620162.

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Are you running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are your employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or are you funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

Send your good news stories to steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk or call 01303 817136.

Train & Retrain

Sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Building to a climax

CONSTRUCTION students from across the county have been competing to find the region's best trainee bricklayers, carpenters, painters and joiners.

Students from MidKent College, K College, North West Kent College, Thanet College and Canterbury College battled it out in individual heats of the SkilledUp contest, with the winners facing off at the grand final later this year.

MidKent College principal Stephen Grix said: "Standards improve each year during the competition heats.

"The quality of the work produced last year was very high, yet these students have managed to top even that."

The winners of each heat were presented with a range of prizes donated by the power tool manufacturer and competition sponsor, Makita UK. Regional representative David Chillingworth said: "We're great supporters of this competition.

"These students are the future of the industry, the competition gives them something to aim for and we're pleased to help them on their way."

K College's head of construction, Mike Stanley, said he was impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and skill demonstrated by his students.

He added: "All the students have taken on the challenge and gone for it and the results speak for themselves.

"It shows how everyone is capable of going the distance. You just need to keep going and never give up."

WELL DONE: Jack Fulker, left, is congratulated by Mark Stockdale of the Department for Education. With them is Wonders of the Universe presenter Professor Brian Cox

Jack's universal appeal

TV SCIENTIST Professor Brian Cox was on hand to congratulate the Kent-based winner of a national competition.

The Wonders of the Universe presenter was one of the judges of the National Science and Engineering Competition, and presented the 'highly commended' award in the junior science and maths category to Canterbury schoolboy Jack Fulker.

Archbishop's School pupil Jack was recognised for his liquefaction project, which explored which materials were best for reclaiming land in areas badly affected by earthquakes. Prof Cox, who was also a member of the 1990s pop group D:Ream, said: "The standard of entries was outstanding and the judging process proved much harder than expected.

"The judges were truly overwhelmed by all the finalists' projects and it's wonderful to witness such enthusiasm and dedication from young people such as Jack. It's left me hugely excited about the future of science and engineering in the UK."

Masterful retail workshops

STUDENTS from across the county took part in a series of retail master classes at Bluewater shopping centre.

The workshops, which covered subjects including merchandising and marketing, were organised by Kent County Council in partnership with Bluewater and North West Kent College.

About 200 pupils from schools in Dartford, Gravesham, Canterbury and Swale took part. Cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "KCC is proud of its pioneering vocational training. These courses help young people get a feel for different sectors of industry and help them make an informed choice in pursuing further qualifications.

"We work closely with industry to tailor these courses and give young people the opportunity to learn from the best and to experience being part of a professional organisation."

BUSINESS TRAINING SOLUTIONS

MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

Subject areas available include:

- Building & Civil Engineering
- Commercial & Business
- Construction Crafts
- Education
- Electrical
- Floristry
- Health & Safety
- Health & Social Care
- Holistics
- Hospitality
- ICT
- Logistics
- Management
- Office Skills
- Plumbing
- Security

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone for more information.

01634 402020

MidKent College
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Apprenticeship Week
7-11 February 2011

THANET COLLEGE

Summary of events in Thanet:

Apprenticeships

Monday 7th February
- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event

Tuesday 8th February
- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February
- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February
- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February
- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February
- Apprenticeship Bus will be at Westwood Cross from 8.30am-6.00pm.
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes

Events run by Training Solutions
At Work - Through Work - For Work
01843 605032 / training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk

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Jig Borer/Jig Grinder
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Please send C.V to **Ray Baigent**
Email **r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk**
Tel: **01634 233216**

The Plough Public House
Require a

Full Time Head Chef & Assistant Chef

For a busy Pub/Restaurant
Experience Necessary and Knowledge of GP would be ideal. Must be hardworking and cope under pressure.

To apply please call Iltan on 01227 792428

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to operate in Kent & Sussex.
Full C1 Driving Licence and ACOPs essential.

Loft Insulation Installers

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Permanent positions offered by construction company based in Pembury established 50 years.

Contact **David** on **01892 825564** or email
david@skinnerandreeves.com

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COBLANDS

Glendale Appointment

Coblands Nurseries Ltd

Seasonal Temporary Nursery Assistants

Based at Tonbridge • £5.93 per hour based on a 40 hour week

This position is available on a temporary basis for immediate start until the 21st April 2011. The successful candidate will be required to work 5 days a week, Monday to Friday with extra hours as required. This role will involve potting, weeding and general maintenance of a wide range of container grown plants. The ideal candidate will work well as part of a team, be self-motivated and have a positive outlook on life.

If you feel you have the necessary skills for this position, please send your CV and letter of application to Jo Dury, Coblands Nurseries Ltd, Trench Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NG or email Jo.dury@coblands.co.uk
Closing date; - 30th March 2011 www.coblands.co.uk

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HANDYMAN

We require a handyman to join our team at The Bridge, Tunbridge Wells, a new development of 2 bedroom apartments.

The successful candidate will be able to work alone or as part of a team. Duties will include light/medium maintenance, cleaning responsibilities and assisting the sales team with daily tasks. Immediate start essential.

Please telephone
0800 883 8170
for more information.

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ASHFORD INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

Ashford International Hotel is currently looking for two experienced managers to join our team

Deputy General Manager

£28,000 to £33,000 per annum dependant on experience

As Operations Manager you'll be reporting directly to the General Manager and be taking the reins when they're not around. You'll be responsible for the daily operation of your hotel with a specific focus on food and beverage, conferences and events. Ultimately, it's about growing and developing the operational areas of our business to ensure we achieve our profit targets, so you will also be involved in development of the hotel business strategy and budget, as well as assisting with the forecast on a weekly basis. And because we don't believe in strict corporate guidelines, you'll have freedom to make your own decisions and think up new and creative ways to get results. Previous Hotel Experience is essential for this role

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As Reception Manager you'll lead, inspire and motivate the Reception team to handle check in and check out to give a great first and last impression making sure that our guests have everything they need to be comfortable and enjoy their stay. Our Reception team thrives on pressure and are nothing if not flexible, welcoming and, quite frankly, amazing at all times! We also know that each and every one of our guests wants to be made to feel special, so no lengthy standards checklists for us! You'll just use your instinct to build a great rapport and deliver our distinctively memorable one of a kind service.

Contact information
If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your CV and covering letter to **Jemma Wilkins**, HR Manager at **Jwilkins@qhotels.co.uk** or apply online at www.qhotels.co.uk

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Invicta Motors are currently looking for successful

New and Used Car Sales Executives

Tunbridge Wells, Mazda & Maidstone Honda

The successful candidates will be ambitious, self-motivated and commercially minded with an aptitude to developing the business.

- Must have previous car sales experience
- Have an excellent standard of verbal and written communication
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- A flexible approach to working hours
- Presentable and punctual
- A valid driving licence

In return, we offer the experienced applicant the opportunity to sell the superb range of Mazda/Honda vehicles with one of the most progressive motor retailers in the country. This position comes with an OTE of £40k and the use of a company vehicle.

If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent

NO AGENCY CALLS

KALC

COUNTY SECRETARY
(Chief Executive Officer)
(£30,851 – £ 35,430)

The Kent Association of Local Councils is recruiting a County Secretary from June 2011, to secure the administration, management and funding for the Association. You will head a small team whose role is to provide quality legal and technical advice, high standard training, the dissemination of new information and the maintenance of regular communication between our office in Folkestone and our almost 300 member Parish and Town Councils,

Ideally you will be an enthusiastic professional person, preferably with a background in, or understanding of, Local Government. You will need to have excellent administration and management skills. You will also need good inter-personal and general communication skills, have experience of servicing and leading meetings and be a confident public speaker.

You will need to be flexible and there will be some evening and weekend work.

Closing date: 4th April 2011

For application form and job description contact 01303 248252 or email kalc@btconnect.com

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PART-TIME PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

The successful candidate would ideally have a construction and health & safety background and preferably be familiar with the compiling and writing of Pre Qualification Questionnaires and Select List Applications to be made ready for submitting to strict dead lines, the ability to work on your own initiative will also be required.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

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CHEF DE PARTIE
We are looking to strengthen the team by employing a new Chef de Partie. View the George at www.thegeorgehotelkent.co.uk

Applicants must have relevant experience in a busy pub, hotel or restaurant producing quality meals from local fresh produce.

The position is full-time over 5 days assisting in the starters and desserts section and also preparing breakfasts. The salary is negotiable based on experience and is on a live-out basis.

Please E-mail your CV and covering letter to **georgehotel@shepherd-neame.co.uk** or ring **The Manager** on **01580 713348**.

Full Time Dental Nurse
required in Whitstable
Experience preferred, but training provided for the right candidate.
Knowledge of computers preferred.
For further information, contact: **07540 691677** *or send CV to* **aycliffe@gmail.com**

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Require
Enthusiastic fund raisers/instore promotion people/collectors
To work at venues in the Kent area
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Start £6.50 p.h, plus bonus. Must drive.
Please call Sue: 07809 714252

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Co-ordinator
Thanet Kidz Klub
Salary c £20,000 pa + Accommodation + Pension

TKK in partnership with Church Army are seeking to appoint an exceptionally gifted Christian person to plan, organise and deliver a term time Kidz Klub for the area. Included will be responsibility for administration, the budget, fund raising and volunteers.

Additionally the Co-ordinator will have responsibility for developing the work across the churches of Thanet.

Based in The Marlowe Innovation Centre in Ramsgate the Saturday morning Kidz Klub takes place in the adjacent Marlowe Academy along with evening home visiting during the week.

If you are experienced in working with children of primary school age and feel you can take this one year old ecumenical project forward please send your CV with covering letter to:
Mrs G. E. Trumble, Thanet Kidz Klub, The Marlowe Innovation Centre, Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 6NA.

This position is subject to an Enhanced CRB.

Closing date for receipt of applications 20th April. Interviews 28th April.

TKK is in the process of applying for independent charitable status.

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EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER
The successful applicant will be part of the Management Team, responsible for the day-to-day running of the business. Experience of management, not necessarily in the hospitality industry, is important for this position. In particular we are looking for someone who can lead and motivate staff to provide a consistently high standard of customer service in a busy and varied environment.

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GARDENER
required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work between 7-21 hours per week. Must have good sound knowledge in planting, pruning, hedge and grass cutting. Must work well on own initiative - own vehicle required

Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour plus fuel costs.

For more information please call 0800 032 0755

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Closing date for applications - Monday 11th April 2011
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Registered Nurse 1st Level
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To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
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For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com
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"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)

The New School at West Heath works towards helping students develop life skills and enjoy social activities. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfCS and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and innovative

ART TEACHER

Required from September 2011

The successful candidate will:
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- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
- have the ability work effectively within a team
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- the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD

We offer Teachers rate of pay and SEN allowance

Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description.

Email: personnel@westheathschool.com Tel: 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications 8 April 2011

The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring.

For further details about our school please visit our website www.westheathschool.com

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Required for September 2011

SPORTS COLLEGES

Head of Business Studies and ICT

(TLR 1a)

We are looking for a dynamic new leader for our Business Studies and ICT Faculty. The school has invested heavily recently in quality equipment and a VLE. Business is the second specialist subject here and a popular option. The Faculty is linked with Technology and together drive the school's enterprise work. But there is more to do.

Are you:
- A good leader and motivator of both adults and children;
- Able to bring visionary thinking into everyday practice;
- Committed to the highest possible standards of teaching and learning?

We promise:
- A supportive and friendly environment in which to work;
- Recognition of your skills and ideas in the development of the school;
- Good training and career development opportunities;
- New and invigorating challenges.

Closing date for applications: 4pm 6th April 2011
Date of interviews: Week beginning 2nd May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Meopham School, Wrotham Road,
Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

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Required for September 2011

SPORTS COLLEGES

Head of Creative Arts

(TLR1b)

We are looking for an experienced and dynamic leader for Art, Dance, Drama, Media and Music, from September 2011.

We welcome applications from individuals who can demonstrate a passion for the Arts, and who have a real understanding of how students learn kinaesthetically.. We have gained Artsmark award. There is good informal collaboration between departments through the school's excellent performances and festivals. We are now looking for someone to develop the faculty even further to provide outstanding teaching & learning for the 21st century. We are fortunate in having an innovative Creative Arts department which has recently taken a major role in developing enquiry based learning in the school. Team working is excellent.
This is a perfect opportunity for a dynamic leader who is keen to excite and challenge both pupils and staff in the pursuit of excellence on the next stage of our journey.

Closing date for applications: 4pm 6th April 2011
Date of interviews: Week beginning 2nd May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Personnel Officer, Meopham School,
Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

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ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

25 hours per week/term time only • Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 - £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To work as part of a team to support the accurate recording, reporting and analysis of pupils attainment data. Educated to at least A Level standard with a strong analytical ability and good knowledge of Excel.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Learning Support Assistant
31.25 hours per week (8.30 am to 3.15 pm
Kent Scheme Grade 5 – Points 14-17 - £11,968 to £13,164 p.a.
To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of students with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs in relation to language. Excellent literacy skills in English and at least one other language which are supported by an enthusiastic and motivational approach to students. HLTA qualification desirable (or willingness to achieve HLTA).

TEACHING ASSISTANT

31.25 hours per week (8.30 to 3.15 pm)
Kent Scheme 4 or 5 dependant on qualifications & experience
To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of pupils with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 4 April 2011

Find a job online

Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

Malling Holmesdale MHF federation

"Two world class schools at the heart of their communities"

Learning Resource Centre Manager

Kent Scheme 5, 37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year (term time plus one week) £16,793 to £18,471 pro rata.

The Malling Holmesdale Federation is seeking an enthusiastic individual prepared to run a vibrant school library at the heart of **The Malling School** in East Malling. To start asap after Easter. Qualifications in English and mathematics to GCSE grade C essential. Must be IT literate. Please see our website www.mhfederation.co.uk for full job description, person specification and application form. To discuss the role contact Sue Ricketts on 01732 840995
Closing date: 12.00 noon on Monday 4 April
Interviews w/c 4 April

MHF is committed to the safeguarding of all young people and this post will be subject to an enhanced CRB and CV check

Westlands Academies Trust

THE WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

37 hours a week from 11am – 7pm Mondays-Friday
Kent Pay Band 3 - £14,099 - £15,984

Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis. Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours, should the need arise.

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team. As well as general caretaking duties they will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a good working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is essential. An awareness of swimming pool maintenance would be an advantage.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: 6 April 2011 Interviews: 8 April 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Westlands Academies Trust Holmewood Avenue
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1XN
Company No 7344732

Required for September 2011

SPORTS COLLEGES

Full time Female Teacher of PE

Meopham is a very successful specialist sports college. This is an opportunity for someone to get experience in a high-performing PE team. We are looking for someone who has potential to lead and innovate in this next phase of our plans.

Closing date for applications: 4pm 6th April 2011
Date of interviews: Week beginning 2nd May 2011

Application forms and information from:
Susan Allison, Personnel Officer, Meopham School,
Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent. DA13 0AH
Telephone: 01474 814646 x234
Email: sal@meopham.kent.sch.uk
Visit: www.meopham.kent.sch.uk

All our posts are subject to stringent child protection checks.

JobsforKent.co.uk

A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Assistant Accountant
Mid Kent
Salary £20,000 plus bonus
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 1731

Accounts Administrator
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Support Service Assistant
The Folkestone School for Girls
Salary Kent Pay Scheme Band
To apply/more information:
Folkestone School For Girls
sdunster@
folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KoS

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER
Required 42.5 hours per week - 8:00am to 4:30pmMon to Fri£8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
Previous experience working in a small business on a financial computer software package. You must have a full Driving Licence to drive company vehicle. Must have a good telephone manner and knowledge of computers to develop company website. Your duties will involve day to day operations of normal buying and selling procedures within a small business, accurate daily record keeping and filing of engineers site attendance into suspension And computer files, website development and other administration tasks as required. Rapid enhancement of pay structure for the right applicant. Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
To apply/more information:
A & C Pumps Ltd
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accounts Administrator
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
Full-time/ Part-time
Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity as an Accounts Administrator and PA to Doctor has arisen within an expanding, exceptional health centre.We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics)Must be a proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher: other basic computer skills are preferable.Hard working and motivated Enthusiastic and committed Organised and efficient Works well within a team and soloThrives on self improvement and success
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Gardener
Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
Gardener required in the Tunbridge Wells area to work between 7-21 hours per week
Must have good sound knowledge in planting, pruning, hedge and grass cutting
Must work well on own initiative - own vehicle required
Rate of pay will start at £9.00 per hour plus fuel costs
For more information, please call 0800 032 0755.
To apply/more information:
DMS
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker
Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Art and Design

ART TEACHER
Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
New School at West Heath (The)
personnel@
westheathschool.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Part-time cook
Meopham/Wrotham
Salary Negotiable
Part-time cook required for residential home in the Meopham and Wrotham area. Alternate weekends and plus holiday cover.To cook for 50 plus elderly residents. Good home cooking skills required. Please call Karen or Julie - Tel: 01732 8222150r email: holywellpark@aol.com
To apply/more information:
Holywell Park Ltd
debbieholywell@aol.com
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK
Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus. Must have:passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produceunderstanding of budgets, stock management Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2. If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion required, please telephone 07973 559729.
To apply/more information:
New Inn
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef
Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
The Plough Public House
Require a Full Time Head Chef & Assistant Chef. For a busy Pub/Restaurant.
Experience Necessary and Knowledge of GP would be ideal
Must be hardworking and cope under pressure. To apply please call Iltan on 01227 792428.
To apply/more information:
Plough (The)
theplough.swalecliffe@
:live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Estimator
Ashford, Kent
Salary: Negotiable
Celebrating 130 years in the print industry, Headley Brothers Ltd is currently looking to recruit an Estimator. Working within the Commercial team and handling a range of print projects, as Estimator you would be responsible for: Producing accurate estimates, tenders and costings; obtaining pricing from internal sources and suppliers, and preparing price matrices.. Liaising with staff, suppliers and customers, to ensure provision of the best possible production alternatives and solutions to client requests. Supporting the Commercial Manager in ensuring the commercial success of the company. The ideal candidate will: Be self-motivated, highly-driven and dynamic. Have excellent organisational skills. Be a strong team player, with excellent interpersonal skills. Have strong oral, numerical and written communication skills
Estimating experience and/or a knowledge of the print industry would be considered useful, but not essential. Headley Brothers Limited is an Investor in People and an equal opportunities employer. Please send your CV to Paul Palmer, Headley Brothers Ltd, The Invicta Press, Queens Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HH, or by email to:
paul.palmer@headley.co.uk.
All applications should include reference number: KOS01.
Closing date: Friday 15th April 2011. Please note that responses will only be issued to applicants that are eligible for interview.

Cavity Wall Insulation Technicians
Pembury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Loft Insulation Installers
Pembury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Skinner & Reeves
john@skinnerandreeves.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Plant Drivers
Kent
Salary £10 - £11.50 Per Hour
Experience Plant Drivers required for site work in the Kent and Essex area. Duties will include operating plant machinery on site. Contract work that can become long term for suitable candidates. Must have own transport as sites locations vary on each contract. Looking for the following operators: - 360 Drivers- 180 Drivers - Telehandlers- Dumper Drivers - Cherry Pickers- Roller Drivers
Essential that all operator hold CPCS and CSCS CardsAn Advantage to hold Person and Best Tickets or Bluewater Cards
Must have Full PPE Hard Hat, Boots and Vis Vest. TO APPLY CALL CARL DAVIS ON 01622 664999.
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Shop Fitter Joiner
Kent
Salary £11 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Traffic Mangament Ops
Kent
Salary £7 - £ 12 Per Hour

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008 Email: harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

A Voluntary Controlled School with specialisms in Mathematics, Computing and Humanities
An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1180 students including 300 in the co-educational Sixth Form

We require a full time

COVER SUPERVISOR

who would be prepared to act as a Pastoral Support Assistant for 37 hours per week, term time only, to start in May 2011.
Salary will be according to age and experience and will be paid at Medway Grade D2 – Salary range £15,039 - £19,126 pro rata.

Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals?
Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?

If so, please contact Mrs J Harrison, Headteacher's PA, for an application form and job specification on 01634 844008.

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Closing date for applications – Wednesday, 6th April 2011

Jobs by Email

Be the first to receive the latest Kent Jobs

To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Customer Service, Call Centre

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Domestic

Care Domestic

Westgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Gordon Lodge applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

IRONING SUPERVISOR

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Molly Maid vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLEANERS AND IRONERS

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Molly Maid vicky.irvine@mollymaid-cleaners.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Trades

Gardener

Tunbridge Wells
Salary £9.00 per hour
To apply/more information: DMS applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Graduate Teacher Programme

Gravesend
Salary £13,500 during training
To apply/more information: St John's Catholic Comprehensive School mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

ART TEACHER

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: New School at West Heath (The) personnel@westheathschool.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Sittingbourne
Salary £14,099 - £15,984
To apply/more information: Westlands School (The) swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Northfleet
Salary Dependant on
To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

WELLNESS COACHES

Swale, Medway
Salary £500-£1000+ per month
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury
Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Piper Windows ron@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

STORES PERSON

Sevenoaks
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: LMS Ltd applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Jig Borer/Jig Grinder

Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Aerospace Tooling r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Forklift Clamp Drivers

Chatham
Salary £6 - £7 per hour
To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

Northfleet
Salary £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.
To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: New Inn
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Head Chef & Assistant Chef

Whitstable
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Plough (The) theplough.swalecliffe@:live.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Office & IT Manager

Ashford
Salary: £23,000- £25,000
Office & IT Manager
We are seeking a highly-organised and self-motivated Office and IT Manager to run our busy grant-making office. Kent Community Foundation is an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a logical and systematic approach as well as a passion for technology and new media who can lead on our IT strategy. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent communication and customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email admin@kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500.
Full-time Permanent
To apply/more information: admin@kentcf.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Development and Marketing Officer

Ashford
Salary: c. £21,000- £23,000
Development and Marketing Officer. We are seeking a self-motivated Development and Marketing Officer to support the growth and expansion of Kent Community Foundation. We are an energetic and ambitious charity that supports hundreds of voluntary and community organisations across Kent and Medway. So if you want to make a difference to your local community, this could be the job for you. We are looking for someone with a successful track record in a business development role. Charity fundraising experience would be helpful but not essential. What is most important is excellent communication and relationship-building skills. You will have a positive, can-do approach working as part of a small hard-working and enthusiastic team, with excellent customer service skills. To find out more about this role, please email admin@kentcf.org.uk or phone 01303 814 500.
Full-time Permanent
To apply/more information: admin@kentcf.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

Aylesham
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start
To apply/more information: A & C Pumps Ltd Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Sales People

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Your Local Business Marketing info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Distributors Wanted
Run your own business without the usual risks... and help people save money! choose your own hours full training and support up-front bonuses earn a second income on-going commission no stock to carry Find out more! Call: 0800 781 2433 www.minibills.co.uk
To apply/more information: Utility Warehouse johnandsheila@minibills.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Sales People

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Your Local Business Marketing info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Telephone Sales Executive

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Telephone Sales Executive Ashford You will play a key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates should possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ideally you will have a media sales background, although this is not essential as full training and support is provided.We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. All candidates must have own transport.Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Christine Davidson, Commercial DirectorARCHANT KOS MEDIA,Apple Barn, Hythe Road,Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS0r by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk
To apply/more information: ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos 2

Car Sales Executive

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Fund Raisers/ Instore Promotion People

Kent
Salary £6.50 PH plus bonus
To apply/more information: Follow Your Dreams Ltd sb@followyourdreams.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR206, MR214, MR204, MR213, MR212 AND MR210

IN THE PARISH OF STANSTED

(Public Footpaths MR206, MR214, MR204, MR213, MR212 and MR210 in the Parish of Stansted)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close the following Footpaths:-

MR206 at (National Grid Reference) NGR TQ 611 619
MR214 at NGR TQ 609 616
MR204 at NGR TQ 607 612
MR213 at NGR TQ 605 611
MR212 at NGR TQ 601 611
MR210 at NGR TQ 601 611
from the 11th April 2011

The routes are to be closed because works to lay a water pipeline are planned on them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The paths will be closed until such time as the work is completed or for a maximum of six months, whichever is the sooner. It is expected that each path will only be closed for 1 month while work is being carried out.

The alternative routes are Stansted Hill, Tumblefield Road and Plaxdale Green Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Tel: 01732 872829 (6).

PROW - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC138 (PART) CRANBROOK)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WC138 which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3978 (Point B). Between Points A-B on the Order Plan; and will add a new length of public footpath numbered WC138 with a width of 2.5 metres which commences at NGR TQ 7755 3980 (Point A) on the Order Plan, and runs in a west south-westerly direction for 110 metres to NGR TQ 7744 3979 (Point C). Between Points A-B on the Order Plan.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or the Kent County Council, Environment & Waste at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Matthew Garvey at the address below (Tel: 01622 221971) before 26 April 2011. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WC256 & WC257A

IN THE PARISH OF FRITTENDEN

(Public Footpaths WC256 & WC257A in the Parish of Frittenden)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close: Public Footpath WC257A between The Street and Public Footpath WC256 (NGR TQ 814 409) and Public Footpath WC256 (the western boundary of Frittenden Primary School) from the junction with Public Footpath WC257A (NGR TQ 814 409) and the junction with Public Footpath WC255 (NGR TQ 813 409) from the 11th April 2011

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned to construct a new school hall and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is along the footway of The Street to the Church gate and then along Public Footpath WC255 to the junction with WC256 (NGR TQ 813 409) and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby Tel. 01732 872829 x8

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 26th March 2011

The above notice(s) may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND ADJACENT TO ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 31 May 2011 at 10.00am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land adjacent to St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Network Performance of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

WATER LANE, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT ducting works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Sturry, on or after 16 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A28 Mill Road and Fordwich Road.

It is planned that the works will be carried out on Saturday 16 April and Sunday 17 April, with a further closure on Monday 18 April after 2.00 pm to reinstate the road surface.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

FULBERT ROAD & ROKESLEY ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fulbert Road & Rokesley Road, Dover, on or after 13 April 2011 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The entire lengths of each road will be closed in rolling sections, as advised and signed on site.

Access will be maintained from either Fulbert Road or Rokesley Road as signed locally, with other access maintained whenever it is safe to do so.

MARINE PARADE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Dover, on or after 14 April 2011 for up to 6 weekdays or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling sections between Townwall Street and Waterloo Crescent.

The alternative route is via A20 Townwall Street, Snargate Street, Prince of Wales Roundabout to Union Street, Esplanade and Waterloo Crescent.

WILLOW ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to construct a new kerb build-out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Willow Road, Great Mongeham, on or after 11 April 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Deal Road and Northbourne Road.

The alternative route is via Deal Road, The Street and Northbourne Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

HENLEY STREET, LUDDESDOWNE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Henley Street, Luddesdowne for the entire length.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Sole Street, The Street Cobham, Cobhambury Road, Luddesdown Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate soak away cleansing.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)

(WAITING RESTRECTION ORDER) (VARIATION NO 6) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2) and 4 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order has the following effect

1. to introduce "no waiting at any time" (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of roads:-

Boughton Lane, Cripple Street and Shernolds.

2. to introduce no loading/unloading on the northern side of Cripple Street from the junction with (A229) Loose Road to the junction with Warnford Gardens.

The Order was sealed on 22 March 2011 and will come into force 28 March 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices at Maidstone Borough Council and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

STATION ROAD & BROCA ROAD, HEVER - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road & Brocas Road, Hever between Brocas Farm and road leading to Hever Station.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12th April 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Hartfield Road, Lydens Lane, New House Farm Road and Hever Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

WATERY LANE, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Watery Lane, Sevenoaks between under Railway Bridge and its junction with Honeypot Lane.

The Order will become effective on 11th April 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 6 weeks.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Honeypot Lane, Noah's Ark, High Street and Heaverham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate repair to damaged wall.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 28th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 14.00 – 20.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown. Extent: From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 14.00 – 20.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farnigham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane.
Extent 2:	Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Restriction:	No Right Turn.
1:	Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
2:	Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.

Dates: 3rd April, 25th April, 24th July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October and 9th October 2011.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT LOWER SANDGATE ROAD, FOLKESTONE.

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Canterbury Magistrates Court on 31 May 2011 at 10am for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Lower Sandgate Road, Folkestone as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ during normal opening times.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Nicolette Davis of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

BEACHBOROUGH, NEWINGTON, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of tree surgery works to remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone on or after 17 April 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to 'Coombe Farm' and the entrance to 'Little Orchard'. There will be no access for through traffic between Folkestone and Etchinghill.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, M20 between junctions 12 & 13, (non-motorway traffic via B2064 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road and Cherry Garden Avenue) A20, A260 Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road, Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road, Derringstone Hill, Elham Valley Road and Canterbury Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

DAWES ROAD, DUNKIRK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water and gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dawes Road, Dunkirk, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 9 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Staplestreet Road and Stoney Road.

The alternative route is via Staplestreet Road, Canterbury Road, Boughton Hill, Canterbury Road and Courtenay Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

PARAGON STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Paragon Street, Ramsgate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 4.

The alternative route is via Addington Street, West Cliff Road and Royal Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Paragon Street will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Margate, on or after 28 March 2011 for up to 25 weeks or until the works have been completed.

DANE HILL, MARGATE will be closed at the junction with Dane Road, from 28 March for up to 3 weeks.
The alternative route is via King Street, Trinity Hill, Trinity Square and Northdown Road.
The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access only.

KING STREET, MARGATE will be closed between the junctions with Dane Road and Hawley Street.
From 18 April 2011 for up to 10 weeks.
The alternative route is via Addington Street, Union Crescent and Hawley Street.

DANE HILL, MARGATE – will be closed for its entire length, from 27 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks.
The alternative route is as shown above, with the One-way Traffic Order suspended to allow access only.

DANE HILL GROVE, MARGATE will be closed for its entire length, from 18 July 2011 for up to 2 weeks.
There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and businesses and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011/12

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 17th April 2011 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6am to 2pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill. The alternative route for Castle Way, Leybourne will be via Oxley Shaw Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Royal Wedding street party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

Schedule 1

Sunday 17th April 2011	Sunday 25th September 2011
Sunday 24th April 2011	Sunday 23rd October 2011
Friday 29th April 2011 (until 8.00pm)	Sunday 27th November 2011 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 22nd May 2011 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 18th December 2011
Sunday 26th June 2011	Sunday 22nd January 2012
Sunday 24th July 2011	Sunday 26th February 2012
Sunday 28th August 2011	Sunday 25th March 2012

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (STATION ROAD, DITTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the eastbound slip road of Station Road and prohibiting Large Goods Vehicles from turning left onto the A20 London Road from Station Road on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Hall Road and A20 London Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for mains reinforcement. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Robert Anthony on 01634 276259.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 26th March 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

PLANNING NOTICES

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/03229/HOUSE **Wealden Heights Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Erection of a single storey triple bay garage and store room; creation of new vehicular access (LB)

11/00741/FUL **Beacon Mill Windmill Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Conversion, alterations and extensions to provide ancillary residential accommodation to main house at ground floor level, and holiday let on upper floor levels; new shed including log store (LB)

11/00747/FUL **Beacon Mill Windmill Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Conversion, alterations and extensions to provide one holiday let at ground floor level, and one holiday let on upper floor levels; new shed including log store (LB)

11/00618/HOUSE **Botley 7A Nevill Park, Broadwater**
- Summerhouse in rear garden (CA)

11/00719/FUL **Raffles Of Cranbrook St Davids Bridge, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Change of use from restaurant and bar to 3 additional flats (CA) (LB)

11/00660/FUL **Bakers Farm House Barn Ladham Road, Goudhurst**
- Detached oak framed storage building to store owners tractor and bicycle storage for self catering holiday accommodation; Removal of condition 12 of planning permission TW/09/03736/FUL "The bicycle storage shed shall be retained for such use to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority" (LB)

11/00758/HOUSE **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing garden room/bedroom and outbuildings and replacement with single storey snug/living room extension. First floor rear extension over kitchen (LB)

11/00762/LBC **Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing garden room/bedroom and outbuildings and replacement with single storey snug/living room extension. First floor rear extension over kitchen (TW/11/00758 refers) (LB)

11/00733/HOUSE **Church Cottage Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Single storey rear extension and related alterations (LB)

11/00734/LBC **Church Cottage Brick Kiln Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension and related alterations (LB)

11/00550/HOUSE **4 Montacute Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Side dormer and pitched roof to existing rear flat roofed two-storey extension (CA)

11/00579/HOUSE **2 The Ferns Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Two-storey side and single-storey rear extension, conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation (CA)

11/00624/HOUSE **40 Grove Hill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Conversion of front garden to form hard standing for off road parking with cross-over to highway (CA)

11/00709/HOUSE **Holly House 6 Camden Park, Park**
- Open air swimming pool and pool house with decking area (CA)

11/00712/HOUSE **Mays Farmhouse Romford Road, Pembury**
- Demolition of conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension, attic conversion and associated works (LB)

11/00714/LBC **Mays Farmhouse Romford Road, Pembury**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension, attic conversion and associated works (LB)

11/00544/FUL **8 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall**
- Ground floor change of use from A1 shop/office to residential two bed flat (CA)

11/00038/FUL **The Gardens Barden Road, Speldhurst**
- Change of use of part of land to burial ground (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 26 March 2011

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

HIGHWAYS – BOROUGH OF DARTFORD AND DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

VARIOUS ROADS, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH – (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 17th January 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to commence 3rd April 2011 last 1 day between 09.00 - 12.00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road name: **Roman Villa Road, South Darenth**
Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
Diversion: Marshalls will be giving motorists diversion advice

Road name: **Rabbits Road, South Darenth**
Extent: Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road and Canada Farm Road
Diversion: Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill, St Margrets Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: **Gills Road, South Darenth**
Extent: Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: **Wilson Lane, South Darenth**
Extent: Between its junctions with Gills Road and Rabbits Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: **Canada Farm Road, South Darenth**
Extent: Between its junctions with Three Gates Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name **NO ENTRY to St Margarets Road, Darenth**
Extent: From B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: **NO ENTRY to Darenth Hill, Darenth**
Extent: From B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road and A225 Hawley Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the event, Les Witton Dartford 10KM.

HIGHWAYS – BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

(BELTRING LEVEL CROSSING GRAVELLY WAYS YALDING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Beltring Leval crossing Gavelly Way Yalding on or after Saturday 2nd April 2011 ((at 22.30) until Monday 4th April 2011 (at 04.00) for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Gravelly Ways, Lees Road, Hampstead Lane, Maidstone Road, Boyle Way, Branbridges Road and Gravelly Ways and vice versa.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to enable a level crossing inspection. Should you require any further information the Mel Speight on 01924 371 967.

(EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Eyhorne Street, Hollingbourne on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 21 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Eyhorne Street , Upper Street, Hollingbourne Hill, The Street, Bredgar, Primrose Lane, Tunstall, Tunstall Road, Woodstock Road, Bell Road, St Michael Road A2, Dover Street A2, West Street A2 London Road A2 Key Street A2 Bearsted Road A249,Sittingbourne Road A249, Ashford Road A20.

Southern Gas Networks Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a Gas mains re-enforcement. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Keith White on 07770 730572.

HIGHWAYS – BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

(LOWER HAYSDEN LANE TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lower Haysden Lane Tonbridge between junction of Upper Haysden Lane and Hayesden Lane and the southern boundary of number 2 Great Haysden on or after Monday 14th March 2011 or a period of up to 1 week such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is Upper Haysden Lane, Lower Haysden Lane and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to repair a broken highway drainage pipe to prevent highway flooding and road surface deterioration. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Sarah Fletcher on 08458 247 800.

(OXLEY SHAW LANE LEYBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Oxley Shaw Lane, Leybourne between Roundhay and A20 London Road, on or after Monday 11th April 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Lillieburn and A228 Castle Way and vice versa.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to upgrade of the traffic signals at A20 London Road junction with A228 Castle Way. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Ian Brooks on 01622 666212.

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, KentME14 2XQ

Kent Highway Services

COUNCIL NOTICES

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Adoption Notice
Sexual Entertainment Venues
Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues

Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd March 2011 Maidstone Borough Council passed a Resolution in exercise of their powers under Part 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, to adopt Schedule 3 of the Act as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 for the licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues. The resolution will come into force on the 1st May 2011.

The effect of this resolution is that sexual entertainment venues that provide 'relevant entertainment' as defined under the Act will need to be licensed by Maidstone Borough Council unless the requirement for a licence has been waived. There will be an opportunity for members of the public and enforcement agencies to object to the grant, renewal and transfer of licences and licences may be be granted, granted with conditions or refused.

MARRIAGE LICENCE

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Sole Street House, Selling Road, Faversham**
Applicant: **Dr Rosalind Miles**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

PREMISES & GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Gurvinder Kaur & Dilbag Bhandal of 13 Arthur Street Gravesend Kent DA11 0PP has applied to Sevenoaks District Council for a new Premises Licence for an off licence. Proposed Opening Hours are Monday to Sunday 8am until 10pm for the premises Pembury General Store of 132 Henwood Green Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4LR.

Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732 227325/227299. Any person wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing to: The Licensing Team, Sevenoaks District Council, PO BOX 182, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP.

Notice to be displayed for 28 days from 10.3.11 to 6.4.11.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE

Kent Carriage Horses Ltd of Little Westhill Farm, Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis, Dover, Kent CT15 7DY is applying for licence to use Little Westhill Farm, Belsey Lane, Ewell Minnis, Dover, Kent CT15 7DY as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Ivy House, 3 Ivy Terrace, Eastbourne, BN21 4QT stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

Citroën DS3 Racing ahead

First **Drive**

by **IAIN DOOLEY**

Citroën **DS3 Racing**

WHEN so many car makers try their hardest to create fake wood and carbon fibre trim, it's a rare treat to see the real thing in anything other than a mega-bucks supercar.

Citroën's DS3 Racing is one such rarity – and more than just that reason. A high-profile nod to its maker's world rally programme – star driver Sebastien Leob's company car is a competition-prepped DS3 – the road-going Racing sports real carbon fibre trim inside and out.

It also boasts a significant power hike over the regular DS3, however that's a fair trade-off for being a limited edition car. Citroën has planned for just 2,000 DS3 Racing models, with 200 earmarked for the UK. At least the car's 204 horsepower motor is some consolation.

Usually special editions come with the odd trinket or two in a feeble attempt to justify their limited-run status. Citroën has done the decent thing with its DS3 Racing, though. Along with the aforementioned carbon trim, the car's 1.6-litre turbo motor's output has leapt from an already reasonable 150 horsepower to that 204bhp hot hatch-baiting figure.

Then there's the figure-hugging sports seats, tweaked and more audible exhaust system, increased turbocharger boost, recalibrated suspension settings, wider front and rear track, lower ride height and uprated brakes. Not just a rebadged car with fancy trim, then.

Tweaks

Citroën would be offended if you thought its 'Racing' competition division is responsible for the various tweaks. It even has a hand in the assembly process, which explains the limited nature of the car's life – man can only work so fast and don't forget, the guys at Citroën Racing have another day job: preparing the cars for the French firm's multi-championship winning rally team.

With all that in mind, the DS3 Racing understandably costs a little more than its DS3 sibling, although hopefully you can see that it's money well spent. Factor in the ability to choose between black with an orange roof or white with a black roof, plus the chance to customise the exterior and interior with suitably racy-looking graphics, and it's clear this is not a car for shrinking violets.

On the road it's more of a polished all-rounder than its on-paper, low-volume, high-performance credentials suggest. The various suspension, track and damping changes do much to enhance the car's stability when the front wheels are faced with 204 and not 150 horsepower.

Drive the DS3 Racing quickly and its ability to cover ground competently and efficiently isn't in question. Make no mistake, this is a substantial power hike and one that's immediately noticeable on the road. Ride comfort is surprisingly good – even on potholed roads – and it changes direction with little fuss.

Fortunately for the purists, Citroën resisted to the temptation of fitting its semi-auto paddleshift gearbox. The DS3 Racing's slick six-speed manual gearbox is an excellent companion. The car's uprated brakes are also a welcome addition. Although the car's exhaust note is more prominent, it's still easy to barrel up to corners faster than you'd planned. Thank goodness for those beefy Brembo stoppers.

Still, the upside to this near-stealth approach to back-road performance motoring is that the car is super-refined on the urban commute and the motorway. The Racing variant can be used every day despite looking like it's just been signed off by a crazy high-performance tuning company.

And while you're sitting in the morning's stop-go traffic, at least you can play with the car's high-spec audio unit, fiddle with the air-con or Bluetooth phone connection and listen to music from your connected MP3 player.

Like with so many special edition, limited-run cars, the decision to buy or not to buy is a personal one. The regular DS3 is a fine car – stylish, refined, capable – and has done wonders for Citroën's brand image. The DS3 Racing successfully builds on those attributes.

The motorsport angle isn't some hollow marketing fluff, either. The department behind the rally cars had direct input into the road car and is part of the assembly process, which is something genuine enthusiasts can relate to. So, not only does the DS3 Racing look the part it can act it, too.

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2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995

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2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £11,995
2009 (58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles £8,995
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2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £10,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £8,495
2008 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 14000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles £6,495

FOCUS ESTATES

2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1250 miles £9,495
2007 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £6,495

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2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £16,995
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2010 (57) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles £11,995
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2008 (08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 300 miles £7,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles £7,495
2006 (56) RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £6,995
2008 (57) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,495
2005 (05) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles £3,995

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2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles £6,995
2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles £6,995
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2008 (58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £6,995
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2009 (09) KIA CEED GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles £8,995
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2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £6,495
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2009 (59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles £19,995
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2010 (10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles £9,995
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2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles £7,495

CITROEN

2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles £6,495

CORSA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles £9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles £9,495
2009 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £8,495
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2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles £7,495
2008 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £6,995
2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles £5,495

MAZDA

2008 (08) MAZDA 5 5 TS2 MPV AUTO, GOLD, 15000 miles £9,995
2008 (58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles £9,995
2008 (08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £8,995
2006 (56) MAZDA 6 6 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) MAZDA 3 3 TS 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles £7,995
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2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles £9,495
2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
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2007 (57) TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £12,995
2010 (10) TOYOTA IQ VVT-I IQ 3DR HATCH AUTO, PURPLE, 6000 miles £9,495
2007 (57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £8,995
2007 (07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles £7,995
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2005 (54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,495
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles £7,495
2007 (07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles £6,995
2005 (05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £6,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 25000 miles £6,495
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495

NISSAN

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles £19,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £17,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 7000 miles £15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £15,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £15,495
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £14,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles £12,995
2010 (60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 300 miles £11,995
2009 (09) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
2009 (58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles £8,995
2009 (59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles £8,495
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2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles £5,995
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2005 (05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles £4,995
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2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles £9,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles £9,495
2010 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £9,495
2009 (59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles £8,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles £8,495
2009 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles £8,495
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 11000 miles £7,495
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BEIGEBUFF, 14000 miles £6,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA , 17000 miles £5,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles £5,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles £5,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles £5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles £15,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles £14,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1600 miles £13,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2009 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £7,995
2008 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £6,995
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 16000 miles £6,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles £5,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles £10,995
2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles £8,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles £8,995
2009 (59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles £8,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 11000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 9000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles £7,995
2008 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £6,995
2008 (58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles £5,995

PEUGEOT

2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles £9,995
2010 (10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £9,495
2008 (08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £7,995
2010 (60) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH, RED, 850 miles £7,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles £6,995

MITSUBISHI

2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles £6,995

HONDA

2008 (57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles £17,995
2008 (57) HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, SPARKLING GREY, 17000 miles £17,995
2007 (07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles £16,995
2006 (06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles £11,995
2009 (09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles £10,995
2008 (58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles £10,495
2007 (07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles £8,995
2004 (54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles £6,495

MERCEDES

2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles £23,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles £13,995
2008 (58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles £13,995
2009 (59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
2010 (60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles £13,995
2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles £9,995
2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles £9,995
2007 (56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £8,995
2002 (02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 KOMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles . £7,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2010 (60) VOLKSWAGEN POLO SE DSG 5DR HATCH AUTO, NIMBUS GREY, 999 miles £12,995
2008 (57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £11,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles £9,995
2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £9,995
2008 (58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles £8,995
2007 (57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles £7,995
2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles £7,495

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles £19,995
2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles £16,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles £16,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles £16,995
2009 (59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles £13,995
2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles £12,995
2009 (09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles £12,995

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2006 (06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles £7,995
2006 (56) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS LUNA TDI 5DR TD HATCH, BLUE, 20000 miles £7,995
2007 (57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles £6,995
2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles £5,995
2005 (55) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 COLOUR COLLECTION VVT-I 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles £5,995
2006 (06) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH, AMETHYST, 35000 miles £5,495
2006 (56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles £5,495
2004 (04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles £5,495
2007 (07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5DR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles £4,995
2007 (07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles £4,995
2008 (08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIQUE 3DR HATCH, ORANGE, 35000 miles £4,995
2003 (03) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles £4,695
2005 (05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles £3,995
2006 (06) FORD KA DESIGN 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 39000 miles £3,695

SKODA

2008 (58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles £8,995

QASHQAI

2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1000 miles £20,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles £19,995
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 10000 miles £19,995
2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles £19,495
2010 (10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles £17,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles £17,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles £15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 7000 miles £15,995
2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles £15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 10000 miles £15,995
2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH 4x4, ORANGE, 17000 miles £15,995
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles £15,495
2008 (58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles £14,995
2007 (57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 21000 miles £12,995

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04 04	ASTRA SXI 1.4 3DR Star Silver	£3275
08 08	ASTRA BREEZE 1.4 5DR Ultra Blue	£6695
07 57	ASTRA DESIGN ESTATE AUTO 1.8 5DR Metro Blue	£7495
08 57	ASTRA SXI 1.4 3DR Flame Red	£7695
08 08	ASTRA SXI 1.6 5DR Panacotta	£7995
05 55	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Flame Red	£9495
09 59	ASTRA ACTIVE SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£9995
10 10	ASTRA SPORTS HATCH 1.4 3DR Red	£10995
10 60	ASTRA SRI 1.4 3DR Sovereign Silver	£11495
10 10	ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6 5DR Technical Grey	£11995
10 60	ASTRA SRI SPORTS HATCH 1.6 3DR White	£11995
08 08	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Arden Blue	£12495
10 10	ASTRA SRI TBO 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£13995
10 59	ASTRA VXR 2.0 3DR Arden Blue	£15995

CORSA SELECTION

08 08	CORSA BREEZE 1.2 5DR Black Sapphire	£6995
08 58	CORSA BREEZE + 1.2 5DR Red	£7495
08 08	CORSA SRI TBO 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire	£8495
09 09	CORSA DESIGN 1.4 5DR Black Sapphire	£8995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White or Silver Lightning	£8995
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£9495
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Flame Red or White	£9495
10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Star Silver or Metro Blue	£9495
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Metro Blue	£9995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.3 3DR Oriental Blue	£9995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR Waterworld	£9995

CORSA SELECTION

10 10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3DR White	£9995
10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Flame Red	£9995
10 60	CORSA SXI A/C 1.2 3DR Black Sapphire	£10350
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Metro Blue	£10995
10 60	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 5DR Star Silver or Black Sapphire	£10995
10 10	CORSA SE 1.4 5DR Beech Green	£10995
10 10	CORSA EXCLUSIV AUTO 1.4 5DR Technical Grey	£11495
10 60	CORSA VXR 1.6 3DR Black Sapphire	£14995

INSIGNIA SELECTION

09 09	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 1.8 5DR Sovereign Silver	£10995
10 10	INSIGNIA SRI 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£14495
09 59	INSIGNIA SRI 4X4 2.0 5DR Black Sapphire	£15495
10 60	INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 130PS 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£16495
10 60	INSIGNIA SPORTS TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0 5DR Technical Grey	£19495

MERIVA SELECTION

08 08	MERIVA CLUB 1.4 5DR Air Blue	£7250
10 60	MERIVA SE TBO 1.4 5DR Pepperdust	£14995
10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV TBO 1.4 5DR Star Silver	£14995
10 60	MERIVA EXCLUSIV CDTI 1.7D 5DR Waterworld	£16995

VECTRA SELECTION

08 58	VECTRA DESIGN 2.2 5DR Ultra Blue	£7495
08 08	VECTRA SRI 1.8 5DR Pomegranate Red	£8250
08 58	VECTRA SRI NAV X PACK AUTO CDTI 1.9D 5DR Star Silver	£9495

ZAFIRA SELECTION

03 53	ZAFIRA CLUB 1.8 5DR Ultra Blue	£3695
07 57	ZAFIRA CLUB E/T 1.6 5DR Black Sapphire	£7695
08 08	ZAFIRA BREEZE 1.6 5DR Silver Lightning	£7995

ZAFIRA SELECTION

08 08	ZAFIRA BREEZE 1.6 5DR Metro Blue	£8495
09 59	ZAFIRA ACTIVE PLUS 1.8 5DR Ultra Blue	£11995
10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Black Sapphire	£12995
10 60	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.8 5DR Silver Lightning	£13995
10 10	ZAFIRA ENERGY CDTI 1.7D 5DR Star Silver	£14995
10 10	ZAFIRA SRI X PACK CDTI 1.9D 5DR Black Sapphire	£17995

NON-VAUXHALL SELECTION

04 04	CITROEN C3 DESIRE HDP 1.4 5DR Silver	£3995
02 52	FORD FIESTA LX 1.4 5DR Silver	£3275
03 03	FORD FIESTA LX 1.2 5DR Silver	£3495
04 04	FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 5DR Metallic Blue	£3995
04 54	FORD KA LUXE 1.3 2DR Black	£3495
02 52	FORD MONDEO LX 1.8 5DR Silver	£2995
04 54	PEUGEOT 206 STYLE DIESEL 1.4 3DR Red	£3995
01 51	RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.4 3DR Grey	£2995
04 53	RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.4 5DR Blue	£3275
02 02	SEAT IBIZA TD 1.9 D 3DR Red	£3345

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES SELECTION

10 60	ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE 1.7D 3DR Star Silver	£11995+VAT
10 10	COMBO CDTI 1.3 5DR White	£7495+VAT
10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR Glacier White	£8495+VAT
10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 5DR Star Silver or White	£9495+VAT
10 60	COMBO VAN 1.3 4DR Star Silver	£9995+VAT
08 08	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 5DR Star Silver	£6995+VAT
10 60	CORSAVAN 1.3 3DR White	£8495+VAT
10 60	CORSAVAN SPORTIVE 1.3 3DR Star Silver	£9995+VAT
10 60	VIVARO DOUBLE CAB SPORTIVE LWB 2.0 5DR Star Silver	£15995+VAT
10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR Glacier White	£10995+VAT

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Peugeot opens up order books for diesel hybrid

FRENCH carmaker Peugeot is now taking orders for its 3008 Hybrid4 – claimed to be the world's first full diesel hybrid car.

First deliveries in October will be of a £29,995 Limited Edition model – just 35 vehicles will be available in the UK.

The Hybrid4 combines a fuel-efficient 2.0-litre HDi 163bhp diesel engine and a 37bhp electric motor – offering out-of-town fuel consumption of 74.4 mpg, and CO2 emissions of 99g/km.

This special version also comes with tinted headlamps and integral chrome LED daylight running lights, a Pearl White body colour and chrome door handles.

Internally, exclusive touches include two-tone leather trim, all-leather facia and numbered aluminium plate on the centre console. A full-length panoramic glass roof and front parking sensors complete a luxury spec.

The overall 3008 Hybrid4 range will start at £26,600.

Proton reduces Satria Neo prices

PROTON has slashed prices for its ageing yet stylish Satria Neo sporting hatchback – buyers can save a staggering £1,700 now that the range starts at £8,495.

The Satria Neo features electric windows, reverse parking sensors and rear spoiler all as standard, plus a centre-mounted exhaust and race-inspired bucket seats, ABS and twin airbags.

Even the flagship 1.6 Sport auto is a snip at £10,295, down from £11,995.

Proton's UK chief, Simon Park, said: "We are confident that this price revision will prove popular with motorists. Both stylish and sporty thanks to its Lotus ride and handling, the Satria Neo is eye catching on the road and is fantastic to drive."

Most powerful post production cat ever

JAGUAR has unveiled its most potent production car ever – the all-new XKR-S.

It has an uprated supercharged V8 engine, overhauled suspension and a new aerodynamically-driven design, to make it the quickest Jag ever but also the lowest CO2 emitter in its class (300g/km) despite generating 550bhp and offering a top speed of 186mph and 0-60mph in 4.2 seconds.

Bespoke suspension changes to the front and rear are said to improve precision, control and driver appeal, while a reprogrammed Adaptive Dynamics system allows the enthusiastic driver to explore the full range of handling.

Now with improved fuel efficiency (up to 65.7mpg/593 miles between fill-ups*), lower insurance and no road tax to pay for the first year, the new Nissan Micra is the most affordable Micra to run, ever.

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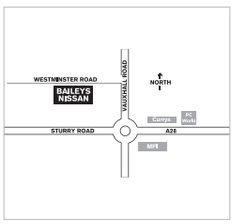

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*Refers to EXTRA URBAN fuel consumption figures – based on Micra 1.2 with manual transmission on a full tank of petrol. †Model shown is Micra 1.2 Tekna manual priced at £12,350 on the road plus optional metallic paint at £400 inc VAT. Information correct at time of going to press. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Fuel consumption figures for Nissan MICRA Range: CO_2 125-115g/km – URBAN 42.2-46.3mpg/6.7-6.1L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 61.4-65.7mpg/4.6-4.3L/100km – COMBINED 52.3-56.5mpg/5.4-5.0L/100km.

Revolutionary Lexus breaks cover quietly in the county

by STEVELOADER

LEXUS dealers in Kent have celebrated the 'quiet revolution' – the arrival of the Japanese premium brand's all-new CT200h executive hatchback hybrid.

The car is being touted as a mould-breaker for its target sector, where it can attack the BMW 1-Series, Audi A3 and up-spec VW Golf and even niggle at the bigger BMW 3-Series and its rivals by offering an economical and highly attractive tax-efficient solution for company car user choosers.

The secret is the petrol-electric hybrid system and the kind of dynamic rear-wheel drive handling experience that its everyday front-driven Toyota hybrid sibling, the Prius, cannot match.

ENTHUSIASM: Launch weekend was well attended, with around 200 visitors to Lexus Canterbury. Centre manager Paul Stapylton (inset) said he expected the CT200h (above) to put Lexus back on the map with buyers

Compact

It also helps that the marketing drive for this compact model is being spearheaded by compact superstar Kylie Minogue – usually pictured in the Lexus ads holding a finger to her lips to emphasise the 'Join the quiet revolution' strapline.

With a powertrain that can run in near silent electric mode, the CT200h certainly offers a revolutionary option for executive car buyers.

It is also stamped with all the Lexus hallmarks: exemplary build quality, loads of standard kit and a real premium feel to the interior, and it is no wonder that there was genuine enthusiasm at the launch weekend held by Motorline Group's two Kent dealers, Lexus Canterbury and Lexus Tunbridge Wells.

Some 200 people attended the event at Canterbury, where centre manager Paul Stapylton expected the CT200h to put Lexus back on the map with buyers – the brand's volumes have suffered against German rivals during the recession.

"This car is going to bring back the volume for Lexus and we fully expect to struggle to match demand with supply," he said.

Paul, who recently took over the post at the Broad Oak Road site after being based at Motorline's nearby Renault centre, added: "This is also a really exciting time to be involved with Lexus, which is pushing the boundaries back on quality and technology."

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DrivingReview by STEVELOADER

Audi A1

Shrink-wrapped A1 has preserved Audi quality

FOR a small car, much is riding on the newly-arrived Audi A1.

Firstly, it marks the debut of the A1 model number and must be 'A1' to counter any perceptions that a downsized Audi dilutes premium qualities the German brand has worked so hard to create.

Secondly, the car must battle the retro appeal of BMW's hugely popular Mini and the temptingly cheaper Fiat 500. Audi has no appropriate retro small car heritage to call upon, but it would have been nice perhaps to see more design cues from the brand's TT coupe transferred to the new baby, but the A1's styling does at least leave no doubt about who makes it.

It also has a stunning cabin, with lots of aeronautical design features such as the jet intake air vents and chunky knobs. Quality is both visual and tangible with top-notch materials adding to Audi's claim to have "shrink-wrapped everything it stands for" to create the A1.

And that goes for the on-road experience too, because the A1 feels every bit as solid and refined as its bigger sisters.

It is also practical, with the rear hatch opening to a decent boot, while slight headroom restriction from the raked rear roofline is more than compensated by decent kneeroom – a point not lost on buyers weighing the A1 against the Mini.

Remember too that many small cars are bought as a family runabout and now that kids must use booster seats – seemingly, until they go to university – a lack of kneeroom can affect them as much as adults.

On the other hand, many premium brand or highly-specified small cars are bought to show-off and there are pros and cons here for the A1.

Prices start from an attractive £13,420, but the A1 really does need the kit – good alloys, good paint job, etc – to look the part. Even that customisation king, the Mini – which pioneered how to sell a car to a customer and then so much more on top – looks great with just a few extras.

In many ways, the Fiat 500 is even more challenging: it's cheaper anyway and a relatively modest spend transforms it into a designer baby car. However, the Fiat's ownership experience, quality and comfort highlights the old adage "you get what you pay for".

Which leaves the A1 going head to head with the Mini, where it wins on practicality even if its loses out on retro appeal.

It also offers a good driving experience judging by our 121bhp 1.4TFSI Sport test car, fitted with Audi's S Tronic version of the excellent VW Group twin-clutch gearbox, which really can be driven as a manual as well as an auto

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Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.10%
Term	36 months

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CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on all new retail CT 200h SE-I, when registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres, valid until 31 March 2011. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Vehicle on sale from March 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO_2 figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0L/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1L/100km). CO_2 emissions combined 94 g/km.

though it adds nearly £1,500 to the cost of the test model (£17,120).

However, this extra makes the little Audi a good upmarket urban runabout for weekdays as well as a refined and stylish car to get away in at weekends – a perfect solution for young professionals.

Handling is top notch; this is a sure-footed little car and manual mode means it can be driven hard using the shift or wheel-mounted paddles, until the point when you meet traffic and simply knock the selector across into auto.

Turbocharging is seamless and the power output would seem about right for this car, though wealthy hooligans can opt for the scorching 185ps (183bhp) TFSI S Line S Tronic (£20,705).

The brilliance of our particular version though is that, despite its sportiness, it should average around 55mpg, while CO2 emissions of 119g/km CO2 mean an escape from road tax in year one and a modest £30/year thereafter – impressive for a turbocharged hot hatch.

DrivingPortfolio

AUDI A1 1.4TFSI SPORT S TRONIC £17,120

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero year one)
Best rival	BMW Mini

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the price – the A1's younger targets might prefer the more affordable and retro Fiat 500

NOT SURE: the A1 can really match the Mini and Fiat 500 for retro appeal

REALLY LIKE: how Audi has distilled the essence of its premium branding into a small and stylish car

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Solutions Representative example.

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Customer Deposit	£1775.00	Option to Purchase Fee**	£60.00
Cash Price	£16,320.00	Representative APR	8.1% APR
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Official fuel consumption figures for the A1 range in mpg (l/100km) from: Urban 41.5 (6.8) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3) – 70.6 (4.0). CO_2 emissions: 105 – 124g/km.

Retail sales only: *Payable within first payment. **Payable with optional final payment. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. †Excess mileage applies. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s from participating Audi Centres only (subject to availability) for vehicles ordered before 30th June 2011 and delivered before 31st July 2011. Audi Finance, Freepost Audi Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Prices quoted and examples shown correct at time of going to print (March 2011) and do not take into account any variation to government taxes or charges arising after the date of publication. Vehicles delivered in 2011 will be subject to VAT at 20%. Model used for illustration purposes only and may differ from actual model.

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58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance DSG 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Anthracite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 19,200 miles. £12,995

07 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Multicolour Velour - Leather interior, 35,250 miles. £10,995

52 Plate. Skoda Octavia 1.8 vRS 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic with a Multicolour Partial Leather/metallic Mesh Cloth interior, 91,350 miles. £3,995

08 Plate. Skoda Roomster 1.4 16V 2 5-Dr MPV
Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,335 miles. £7,795

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 BHP) S 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Green Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 2,771 miles. £9,495

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 BHP) SE 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in White Mica Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 14,150 miles. £9,295

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £8,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 3 1.9 TDI PD (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate
Finished in Anthracite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 26,181 miles. £8,495

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 14,900 miles. £7,495

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Black Metallic Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 25,100 miles. £7,295

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 16,400 miles. £6,795

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 26,875 miles. £6,295

56 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 22,500 miles. £4,995

53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback
Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 28,750 miles. £3,795

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56 Plate. Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI Sport (140 PS) 5-Dr
Finished in Steel Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 80,100 miles. £8,995

54 Plate. Honda Civic 2.0 Type S 5-Door Hatchback
Finished in Nighthawk Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £5,795

04 Plate. Ford Galaxy 1.9 TDI Zetec (115 PS) 5-Dr MPV
Finished in Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,510 miles. £5,795

08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback
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05 Plate Peugeot 1007 3 Door 1.4 HDi Dolce
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Investment bonds: Too good to be true?

Q Do you think the John Lewis savings bond will be a good investment? I am considering investing £1,000 for five years at 6.5pc as this is a far better interest rate than that offered by any of the banks.

A Unless you invested without waiting for my answer, I am afraid you have missed the boat. The department store group had planned to keep its investment offer open for a month, but closed it after just 11 days when money flooded in and the company raised all of the £50m it wanted. I will answer your question, though, because there are similar bonds on the market. Yes, this was a good investment, because I believe John Lewis is a safe company. This is important, since bonds issued by companies are not the same as bank accounts. They are just IOUs, and if the company turns out not be safe, there is no compensation scheme to come to the rescue. And remember, bonds are a stock market investment, so their value can fall. For all these reasons, unless you know exactly what you are doing and accept the risks, it might be a good idea to avoid bonds issued by a single company. Instead, consider a fund that spreads your money across a number of bonds from different companies to reduce the risks. The Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund (020 7399 0399) holds more than 80 different bonds, with just over 60pc of the fund's money going into UK companies such as Nationwide, Standard Life and Bupa. It yields about 7.2pc. Or take a look at the Aberdeen Corporate Bond Income Fund (0845 300 2890). It puts its money into 140 different bonds, with less emphasis on the financial sector than Rathbone. The yield is 5.36pc. Because these are stock market investments, you can also buy them through a broker, an advisor or a bank's investment department.

Q I used to have a cashback credit card from Nationwide that repaid me a percentage of everything I spent on the card. Nationwide scrapped it some time ago, but I still think cashback is a good idea. Do any other cards offer this?

A Although some have been withdrawn, you can still get a card that pays you cash for every £1 you spend. MBNA (0800 068 8788) recently launched an American Express card that pays 0.75pc cashback on most purchases, but this rises to 1.5pc when you shop at most major supermarkets and when you fill up with petrol. Or if your credit record is not exactly good, and you have had a few problems in the past, consider the Barclaycard Initial card (www.barclaycard.co.uk). It offers cashback of up to 1pc, depending on where you shop. The main conditions are that you must be over 18 and must have an annual income of at least £10,000. But remember with all cashback cards topay off your balance in full every month. There is no sense in getting a modest cashback and pay 19pc interest on what you have spent!

Q I have two young grandchildren and I would like to invest £1,000 each for them in something completely safe that will grow into a nest egg for when they are older. Please do not suggest anything to do with stocks and shares.

A National Savings & Investments is about as safe as you can get, as it is backed by the treasury, and it offers two schemes you might like. The first is the Children's Bonus Bond. The minimum investment is £25 and the maximum is £3,000 per child. Invest for five years and your money grows at an annual 2.5pc, tax free. The child cannot control the bond until he or she reaches at least 16, and the investment can carry on until age 21. The other possibility is premium bonds. There is no guarantee, of course, but you could make your grandchildren rich! Bonds can be bought for a child by a parent, a guardian, a grandparent or a great-grandparent.

Q Can you find out what has happened to Claimback UK? It handles claims against credit card companies.

A Claims management companies are licensed by the Ministry of Justice, which suspended Claimback's licence in January. No reason has been given. Unless and until the suspension ends, the company cannot act for you against any card firm.

Q Please settle a small family dispute. If someone dies without leaving a will, and the only relatives are two grown-up children, are the savings and property shared equally or does the first born child take a larger share? Does it make any difference if one of the adult children is male and the other female?

A If someone dies intestate – without a will – and with no other relatives except two grown-up children, those children share everything equally. It makes no difference which was born first, or whether they are male or female.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

LOSING BATTLE: Savers are suffering as inflation rose to 4.4pc in February.

Savings are hit as inflation balloons

By ADAM AIKEN
MyMoney24 editor

The pain on savers has been increased as inflation balloons out of control.

It was announced this week that the consumer prices index (CPI) rate hit 4.4pc in February, up from 4pc a month earlier, thanks to increases in the price of fuel, food and clothing.

As well as the cost of living going up, savers are coming under pressure, with their nest eggs losing even more value in real terms.

It will disproportionately affect older people, who often rely on their savings to boost their retirement income.

"The continual rise in inflation compounds the misery of pensioners relying on savings to supplement their income," said Sylvia Waycot, a spokesman for Moneyfacts.co.uk.

She added: "People trying to save deposits for their first homes will see inflation eating into their hard-earned savings faster than it grows, unless they seek out the few accounts that can keep pace with inflation.

"Over the past six months, the number of savings accounts that beat inflation for basic-rate taxpayers has dropped successively from 118 to only eight today, all of which are fixed-rate Isas."

The latest CPI figure means that a basic-rate taxpayer needs to find a savings account paying interest at 5.5pc simply to keep pace with inflation while a higher-rate taxpayer needs an account paying at least 7.3pc.

Economists had been expecting a February figure slightly lower than 4.4pc and, more importantly, CPI is now more than double the Bank of England's target of 4pc.

Many observers expect CPI to keep rising over the next few months, leading to a greater chance of interest rate rises being implemented sooner rather than later.

Women ruling roost in family finances

Women are most likely to be in control of the family finances in UK households.

While men continue to be the primary income earners in the majority of families, research by M&S Money has revealed it is women who are most likely to be in charge of the purse strings.

While 59pc of people think women are better than men at running household finances, 61pc of women say they prefer to be in control of family budgets.

Although the gender pay gap is narrowing, on average men still tend to earn 10pc more than women and there are 10pc more men in employment than women.

The findings about who takes financial control at home are in contrast with gender roles in the previous generation.

Then, 55pc of people said it was their fathers who were the financial heads of the household when they were growing up.

Colin Kersley, chief executive of M&S Money, said: "Although men remain the main income earners in the majority of families, it seems that it is women who hold the purse strings when it comes to the family finances.

"These findings firmly put the myth of the father as the financial head of the family to rest as the changing responsibilities within British households are revealed."

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

HIGH-speed train services to a host of top European destinations could soon be on offer after a Channel Tunnel safety dispute was resolved successfully.

The deal could see trains run from Kent to Amsterdam, Switzerland and Frankfurt, among other tourist hot-spots.

Kent tourism bosses said the move could lead to a 40 per cent increase in visitor numbers.

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Osborne's Budget goes for growth

CHANCELLOR George Osborne has targeted growth for businesses with his latest Budget.

On Wednesday he announced a series of measures aimed at boosting enterprise, including a further cut to corporation tax and an extension of plans to set up enterprise zones in some of the most deprived areas of England.

The 21 new enterprise areas will benefit from relaxed planning laws and discounted business rates in an attempt to encourage the creation of jobs.

Mr Osborne told the Commons: "Last year's emergency Budget was about rescuing the nation's finances and paying for the mistakes of the past. Today's Budget is about reforming the nation's economy so we have enduring growth and jobs in the future."

The most prominent statistic to come out of Mr Osborne's speech was that next month's 4p rise in fuel duty had been cancelled. Instead, 1p per litre will be cut from pump prices, paid for by a £2 billion tax on oil companies.

He said: "It's about doing what we can to help families with the cost of living and high oil price."

There was also a freeze on alcohol duty and air travel duty, but tobacco tax was increased by 2 per cent. During his hour-long speech, Mr Osborne said he wanted the UK to be the "best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business".

This will include streamlining the system for planning applications and introducing fast-track planning for major infrastructure. A sum of £100 million will be invested in science capital development, as well as double the lifetime limit for entrepreneurs' relief to £10m.

And for young people getting into work there will be funds available for 50,000 additional apprenticeship places in the next four years.

The Chancellor did, however, reveal that he expected Britain's economy to grow at a slower rate than previously estimated, with the Office For Budgetary Responsibility cutting its growth forecast for 2011 from 2.1 to 1.7 per cent.

The housing market has also been targeted as the Budget pledged £250m to help 10,000 first-time buyers purchase newly-built homes.

The buyer would have to put up 5 per cent of the cost, while the Government and home-builder would both put up 10 per cent, to try to boost the construction industry.

"This will not end the pressure on family budgets, but we've done what we can to help," said Mr Osborne.

REACTION TO THE BUDGET

DESPITE tight fiscal conditions, we are encouraged the Chancellor has prioritised business growth and private-sector expansion alongside deficit reduction.

There are some real pro-enterprise moves in this Budget that businesses will commend. Reducing corporation tax rates by 2 per cent this year is measure of real substance. We also welcome the Government's desire to speed up tax simplification and to remove the much-disliked 50p top rate of income tax.

Smaller companies will take heart from the Chancellor's moves to cut fuel duty, maintain business-rate reliefs for an additional year, and to exempt businesses with fewer than 10 employees from new regulations.

We have consistently pushed for growth, not just for Kent businesses but for the UK. We welcome the re-introduction of enterprise zones in England and the decision to reward those who invest in new businesses across the UK, for example through the doubling of entrepreneurs' relief.

Jo James, chief executive, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

THE Chancellor said this would be a Budget for growth and in part that is what we have. However, there are vital components missing for small firms to create jobs.

We are pleased the Chancellor introduced a fuel duty stabiliser, has committed to cutting fuel duty and introduced 21 new enterprise zones. This will provide much-needed stability for struggling small businesses.

The Government has committed to cutting red tape, but we believe new employment laws will still come into force in this year, which could hinder businesses from taking on staff. The biggest opportunity missing from this Budget is by not extending the NICs holiday nationwide to existing businesses, which would really have provided incentives for small firms to take on more staff.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway

THE increase of 2 per cent above inflation in beer tax is ruinous to the nation's local brewing sector, ignores its contribution to the economy and puts thousands of jobs in breweries and pubs in jeopardy.

This is a real kick in the teeth to the local brewing sector, one of the few British success stories of recent years. Local brewers are just the kind of business this government says it wants to see prosper. They create jobs and contribute to the local and wider economy by using homegrown ingredients. Yet the current taxation regime is killing off our main route to market – the pub.

The Treasury claimed before the Budget the beer duty escalator is 'baked in'. We say it is half-baked.

Continuing to increase taxes on draught beer will serve only to increase purchases of cheap vodka for unsupervised home consumption. We fail to see how this policy can help tackle binge-drinking.

Eddie and Lois Gadd, The Ramsgate Brewery

WE WELCOME the raft of supply side measures announced in the Budget. The combination of reduced corporation tax and planning liberalisation will help to lift business confidence at a difficult time. However, the scale of deregulation in areas that really matter to business in general, such as employment law, is still very limited. And while the 21 new enterprise zones have real potential, we question why the whole of the UK can't be an enterprise zone.

This was a Budget aimed at changing perceptions and boosting business confidence about long-term economic prospects. The Chancellor didn't have much money to play with, but he played his hand well.

Miles Templeman, IoD director general

FOR a Government committed to being 'the greenest ever', the Budget failed to ignite the forthcoming Green Deal programme to retrofit homes. No additional incentives such as a cut in VAT for energy-efficient repairs, stamp duty or council tax were announced to make Britain's homes greener and more energy-efficient.

The Chancellor missed an opportunity to support the Green Deal and kick-start consumer demand to make our homes greener.

Without creating demand in the market for energy-efficient improvement, it is difficult to see how the Green Deal will succeed when it starts in the autumn of 2012. Help for the house-building industry by the introduction of a Government-backed shared-equity scheme to help 10,000 first-time buyers is a welcome boost, but it is doubtful whether it will help the tens of thousands of small house-builders who are struggling to survive.

The announcement to simplify the planning system is long overdue as this, coupled with the lack of finance, is stifling the industry which is delivering half the amount of homes that we need every year to meet demand.

The announcement that there is to be no new regulation on firms with fewer than 10 staff for three years is welcome news.

However, it would be helpful if the Government could go further and cut existing red tape on small businesses. The Budget will help many small businesses, but far more still needs to be done to bring about a full recovery.

Richard Diment, director general, Federation of Master Builders

THE Budget sets out measures that will support strong and sustainable private-sector growth, reform the economy and tax system and help people in the South East to make ends meet in these difficult times.

It takes affordable action to reduce fuel prices while raising the threshold at which people start paying tax, taking a further 260,000 people out of income tax altogether and reducing the tax paid by 25 million people by an average of £48.

Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

BUSINESS WEEK

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Comment

AS A taxpayer, I winced upon hearing that London had been chosen to host the 2012 Olympic Games. On the monetary front, we do not have great form in building multi-million-pound venues, with both the Millennium Dome and Wembley Stadium coming in hugely over budget.

France managed to knock up the Stade de France without breaking the bank. And there are plenty of other examples of countries across the globe that can be trusted to build what's on the blueprint with relative ease.

Sadly, we British cannot. The Dome came in £204 million over budget and it is far from the exception to the rule. But it's not just the big projects we seem to fudge. Remember the Millennium Bridge fiasco?

So what chance have we got of building a whole Olympic Village without incurring huge losses on top of the millions already earmarked out of our taxes?

On a related national-pride front, even if we somehow get past the construction stage unscathed, we must remember the show Beijing put on in 2008.

It was spectacular from start to finish. Even the normally tedious opening and closing ceremonies were worth watching, carried out with almost military precision.

Yes, the Chinese threw billions into their Games, but on finance alone there is no way we can compete with that and are therefore doomed to failure by comparison.

However, I welcome the Olympics to London with open arms.

The Games will have a huge impact on Kent, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to and through the county.

This will give Kent businesses an immediate boost, but we must make sure we are ready to capitalise on the long-term financial opportunities the Games have given us by ensuring we can entice these sports fans back. Businesses should follow the Olympic athletes' lead by making sure they're in the best possible shape come the main event.

SIMON ROBINSON, Business Editor
Twitter: @KOSbusiness

Pennywise parents can bank on kids learning to save

TWO fathers from Thanet have designed a pocket-money management activity for children aimed at helping in their financial education, ***writes Joe Bill***.

Pocket Pound was created by Scott Gavin, an IT consultant, and his business partner to help youngsters understand the banking system.

Aimed at four- to 11-year-olds, Pocket Pound is designed to teach children to save and earn rewards for saving.

The Pocket Pound pack includes pages where you can list specific chores with different prices, cheques for your child to 'cash' with mum or dad, and statement pages so they can manage their money as if they have a real bank account.

Demand came from other parents when one of the children took the prototype to school, so the inventors got behind the idea as a venture.

Mr Gavin said: "Banks, interest and tax are rather abstract concepts to children, so we created a paper-based banking activity where the parent plays the role of the bank and the child becomes the saver."

Pocket Pound consists of a durable wire-bound booklet with an agreement between the child and adult around the payment of pocket money.

It also consists of rate cards to define jobs and reasons for being paid pocket money, while job cards track how much has been earned, minus 'tax'.

Children can also keep hold of their bank-account statements and pretend cheques to cut out, colour in and exchange for cash. Mr Gavin said: "It may sound complicated on the surface, but it's really simple.

"Rather than physically paying pocket money, the parent acts as the bank and simply records the amounts in the Pocket Pound booklet.

"You can then start to track extra chores around the house, incorporate interest on positive bank balances and start to explore the concepts of income tax and debt."

Children are also handed a pretend credit card and credit-card statements as part of the pack. For more information, visit www.pocketpound.com.

POCKET POUND: A teaching aid for children's finance

Apprenticeship boom time

RECESSION-HIT construction companies are being urged to invest in apprentices ahead of an expected boom in the industry.

Latest Construction Skills Network figures show the rate of growth in the South East sector is expected to rise by 2.2 per cent a year over the next five years – up on the UK average of just 1 per cent.

The Industry Training Board and Sector Skills Council responded to the positive forecast by urging employers of all sizes to recognise construction apprentices as a crucial resource and to help young people enter the industry to avoid losing skills and talent to other sectors.

One company that has already developed an apprentice programme is the Cathedral Works Organisation (CWO), a historic-buildings contractor with management team and skilled employees based in Kent.

Training coordinator Cathy O'Brien said increased competition in the market had made pre-qualification for tenders more rigorous, further increasing the value of apprenticeships.

"Apprenticeship programmes are now a key consideration under the pre-qualification process," she said.

"They feature additional questions, asking if a company has an apprentice programme, how many apprentices they have and how much they spend on training."

In September, the firm took on two new apprentices: 24-year-old Ian Knowles and 29-year-old Ed Shaw.

Both had previously been studying for a diploma in stonemasonry at college but recognised they needed work experience to increase their employment chances and so joined CWO.

Knowles said: "I am enjoying getting to grips with the tools and improving my skills. College doesn't really prepare you for the workshop.

"You really learn a lot from working next to people, seeing how quickly people work and the standard of work needed. You can't really learn this in a classroom."

O'Brien said the apprenticeship route, while at first costly and time-consuming, had many advantages.

"We find our apprentices are keen to develop their careers as skilled craftsmen with us, rather than going elsewhere," she said.

"We have a good retention rate, which can be clearly seen by our contracts manager, Richard Mitchell, who has been with us since 1965.

"Taking on apprentices also means we can train them the CWO way and maintain our standards. It is more difficult to retrain someone from elsewhere.

"With up to six apprentices working for us at any one time, it is a significant investment in both time and money.

"However, we have built our reputation on the quality of our staff and so it is an investment we will continue to make."

IAN KNOWLES: Developing skills

ED SHAW: Invaluable experience

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CHARTERED accountants and business advisors J Cleverdon Ltd will be renamed Cleverdons from next month.

The Broadstairs business will launch the new identity on Wednesday, April 6. A spokesman said: "The rebranding reflects J Cleverdon Ltd's commitment to improving its services to the business community. The company has become increasingly aware that clients often need further management support and business advice."

In addition to the company's core business of accountancy and tax, the rebranded Cleverdons also has business advisory services which include strategic planning, management support and financial-management coaching.

RESTAURATEUR Rezaul Raja was honoured at a seminar and dinner at the House of Commons in recognition of his contribution to the British economy.

The businessman, who owns the Raja of Kent restaurants in Tenterden and Maidstone and Mouchak restaurant in St Michael's, was invited to London by the Development Council For Bangladesh In The UK.

Congratulating the winners, Labour leader Ed Miliband highlighted the "big role in promoting the vital economic, social, cultural and political work done by so many Bangladeshis in this country".

Mr Raja said: "It's a great honour to receive such recognition and a testament to the dedication of my chefs and front-of-house teams."

KENT County Council's Olympics chief, Stephanie Holt, will deliver a speech at a business breakfast next week. The 2012 manager will speak to delegates about the impact of the Olympics in Kent.

With up to 45 training camps in the county and Ebbsfleet station forecasting up to 10,000 passengers per hour, Holt has been charged with bringing private and public-sector bodies together to maximise the legacy to Kent. The event is at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, on Thursday, March 31, from 7.30am to 9am.

Email conferencesales@priestfield.com or phone 01634 300000 for more information.

A BUSINESS breakfast is being held at the Turner Contemporary on Tuesday. The Margate gallery is hosting the event in a bid to engage with local businesses ahead of the attraction's grand opening next month.

Margate Renewal Partnership director Derek Harding said: "Having a world-famous gallery in town will increase visitor numbers, which will have an impact on local businesses. I hope anyone with a business in the area will take this opportunity to find out more."

The breakfast is particularly aimed at businesspeople based in Margate, Cliftonville and Westbrook. It runs from 7am to 8.30am.

Those wishing to attend should email sharon.sebastian@thanet.gov.uk or phone 01843 577182.

INTERNATIONAL delivery firm GBA Services has expanded into Kent. The company has set up its South East distribution hub at Montpelier Business Park, Ashford, a move expected to create 35 jobs.

The depot will handle high-priority shipments using the company's Time Critical Division and also specialise in serving pharmaceutical-industry clients using its GDP Pharma Logistics operation.

Depot manager Mike Candela said: "From Ashford we have unrivalled links to Europe, making it quicker, more cost-effective and greener for us to get our vehicles in and out of the UK."

Extra destinations give light at end of Tunnel

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS to run high-speed trains to a range of favoured European destinations are within touching distance of being agreed after a dispute over safety was resolved.

It could mean a 40 per cent increase in the number of passengers travelling through Europe on Eurostar, with new route options opening up to places such as Amsterdam, Switzerland, Frankfurt and the Côte d'Azur in France.

Popular

For Kent, the move could create a significant boost in tourism, with a potential rise in visits by our Continental neighbours.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, the chief executive of tourism board Visit Kent, said the county was already popular with visitors from Germany and The Netherlands.

"This would make it even simpler for them to come and enjoy a short break or longer stay with us," she said.

"We already work closely with tourism providers in both countries and this would strengthen our partnerships considerably."

She continued: "Fast-train services to destinations across mainland Europe will open up new destinations and markets."

Currently, French company Eurostar is only able to run high-speed trains to Brussels and Paris from London, stopping at Ashford International and Ebbsfleet, due to a dispute over safety regulations.

ON TRACK: More European destinations are moving within reach of high-speed rail

In October, German rail operator Deutsche Bahn expressed an interest in running trains from London through Europe and to Frankfurt, just as Eurostar announced it was looking to buy 10 new trains from Siemens to add to its existing stock.

But French safety regulators stated that the only trains able to travel safely through the Channel Tunnel were those with motors and electrical equipment concentrated in power cars at either end of the locomotive – like those used on the Brussels and Paris trains.

Tunnel operator Eurotunnel, however, argued the new trains, which have electric motors under the floor of each carriage, were safe to run in the Tunnel. The ongoing dispute meant that rail authorities in Europe had to intervene.

A report released on Monday by the European Railway Agency found there was no basis to discriminate between the two designs, leaving the French state-owned operator SNCF, which controls Eurostar, able to buy the new stock.

Competitive

Eurotunnel spokesman John Keefe said it meant new destinations could be rolled out, with an expected passenger increase of 40 per cent. "It's very good news all round," he said.

"We'll take a lot of business from airlines, and with Deutsche Bahn also hoping to launch new routes it will mean competitive rates for passengers as choice expands."

Mr Keefe said he was unsure of the exact timetable but said trains could potentially stop at Ashford International or Ebbsfleet.

"The next step is for the rule changes to be approved by the Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission," he said.

"This report was part of a series of steps to try to get approval for these trains – it was the most key part.

"If it is approved, then we can start looking to operate to these destinations from 2013."

As well as Amsterdam, Geneva and the Cote d'Azur, passengers will be able to take advantage of seasonal trips to destinations such as Avignon in the south of France and the Alps.

MANY TANKS: Steve Bartholomew, left, and the team from JB Landscape with one of the water-storage tanks being installed

More flowing praise

JB LANDSCAPE has won a further environmental contract from its Kent Science Park co-tenant AmicusHorizon.

The firm was chosen to install underground water-storage tanks at Amicus sites throughout the Swale and Thames Gateway regions.

Managing partner Steve Bartholomew said: "These underwater tanks fill up from the houses' external guttering. Rainwater is channeled along the guttering and downspouts into the tanks.

"All we then have to do is attach a hosepipe and activate the simple pump mechanism and the rainwater, which would otherwise have run into the soakaway, can be used to water gardens. It sounds obvious, but it's an extremely elegant system."

JB Landscape has further reason to celebrate after picking up two accreditations.

Mandy Bartholomew, Steve's wife and business partner, said: "This is a really exciting time for the company. We've been working towards these accreditations for two years and to see all that hard work paying off is very satisfying.

"We've always known all our work is carried out to the highest environmental and quality standards and now we have the documentation to prove it."

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Ian gets to grips with a

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK
THE BIG INTERVIEW

The great-grandson of the inventor of the Jubilee clip now oversees their production – shipping out tens of millions of the clasps each year. Ian Jennings has taken up the position of co-managing director of Gillingham-based firm L. Robinson and Co, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.
The 26-year-old spoke to Business Week editor SIMON ROBINSON about how his tinkering great-grandfather came up with the clip in his garden shed and how the business now exports to countries as far afield as the Middle East and eastern Asia.

IAN JENNINGS

IT IS often the case that the best inventions are also the most simple.

I give more value to the development of the paper-clip and the Post-it note than I do to the iPod or its technologically superior big brother the iPad.

The internet tells me that a bright young spark at the Gem Manufacturing Company was the first in the world to cunningly bend a strip of wire several times in order to attach one or more pieces of paper together; and that Dr Spencer Silver was the genius who developed a "low-tack, reusable, pressure-sensitive adhesive", a scientific breakthrough now known as the Post-it.

Both inventors deserve to be remembered among the great minds of our times for their work in making office life a tiny bit easier for millions of people across the globe.

The iPod is brilliant – don't get me wrong – but it's the everyman factor of the paper-clip that particularly appeals to me.

Surely there's an existing product out there that I could improve and secure my millions?

TIGHT FIT: The Jubilee clip is everywhere

Sadly, my eureka moment is yet to arrive.

Commander Lumley Robinson had his in his shed in 1921. The retired naval officer – a constant tinkerer – developed the Jubilee worm-drive hose clip.

His self-titled firm, L. Robinson and Company, now produces tens of millions of the small metal clips each year and exports them as far afield as the Middle East and Japan.

The company's co-managing directors are Lumley's granddaughter's husband, John Jennings, and great-grandson, Ian.

Ian, 26, explained how the clip went from invention to export product in just two years.

"At the time, the traditional method to fasten hoses was to take a strip of metal, drill a hole in each end, bend it round and put a nut and bolt through the top.

"After my great-grandfather retired, he was a bit of a tinkerer and sat in his shed with some tools and fiddled with things.

"He thought there must be a way you could improve the fastening so you have something that does not require any work to build.

"He came up with the thread and the screw device, got a patent, then bought some steel and got engineers to make them.

"Then he went to London and went round to garages and asked if they wanted to buy a few. He sold them on the basis that they're cleaner and save time. It caught on quite well."

Ian took his place with the family firm, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, in 2006 after completing a law degree at the University of Southampton.

At the company's Gillingham headquarters, I asked the young MD if he had proven his Jubilee clip credentials to the 130-strong workforce.

"You need to ask the guys who work here," he said. "I hope so, as we're all interdependent. I rely on them and they rely on me, so there has to be an element of trust.

"I'm sure there would have been people saying 'This is a clear case of nepotism', but family businesses are subject to that all the time. Time will tell whether or not my position is justified.

"I like to think that if I try my best and apply myself, then my appointment will be justified."

Ian first took up a position at the family firm more through chance than design. Having graduated in May 2006, he took on the company-secretary role just two months later.

"After I graduated I didn't have any real plans," he said. "Like most students, I thought I'd have a normal summer and then focus on getting a job. I was not pushed into joining the firm as my family felt it was important for me to find my own way.

"But then the company secretary became

IAN JENNINGS: CV

EDUCATION
- 1991-95 – Fairview Junior School
- 1995-2001 – Rainham Mark Grammar School
- 2001-06 – University of Southampton

EMPLOYMENT
- Jubilee Clips (packing occasionally, but quite rarely, as discussed)
- Sutton Kilkhoff Boulding and Co (after-school admin, during A-levels)
- Berry Nicholls and Parsons Catering Hire (logistics and handling, summer work when at university and again during A-levels and GCSEs – this was ideal as it is a very seasonal business)
- Lawcomm Solicitors (fee-earner; sandwich year from university)
- L. Robinson & Co (Gillingham) and Jubilee Clips (acting company secretary 2006-07; company secretary 2007-11; managing director 2011)

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ill and had to take a lot of time off.

"At the time we were looking into buying a new building and moving from five properties into one, a task that is made more easy by having a law degree as I have experience dealing with surveyors and solicitors.

"So with my background it was a good fit. I was at a family garden barbecue and a neighbour said 'Why don't you go in and make yourself useful?'. So I did."

After learning the ropes of the business through taking on the secretarial and accountancy duties, Jennings was later made co-managing director alongside his father, a move he says has proved mutually beneficial.

TAKE A STAND: Ian Jennings (left) promoting his great-grandfather's invention

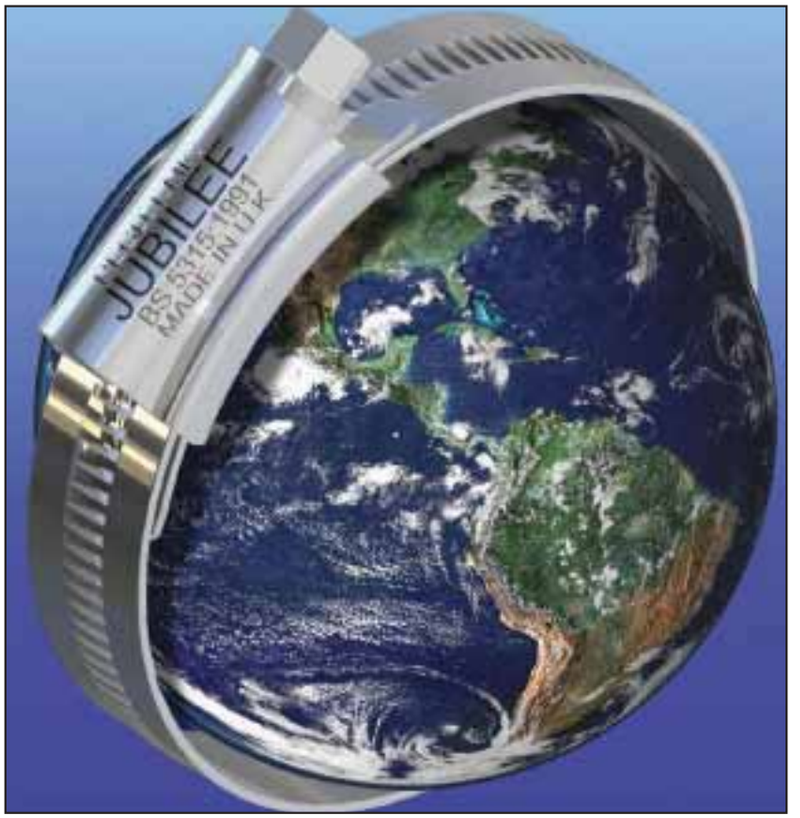
"I hope my dad finds it more relaxing having someone to share things with. We have quite a good relationship – it's probably better now we're working together."

Jennings has big plans for the firm.

"Why aim low? Michelangelo said aim high and miss, as it's much better than aiming low and never finding out what you could have achieved. We're an established company, but our market share is not huge because we're at the premium end of the market.

"There is scope to improve that by educating people who buy clips that our products are not just brand names – there's a quality aspect to it as well.

"There's also room to go further afield. There's a new world emerging, particularly in the Far East, where high-quality technical products are demanded."



Jennings has clearly worked hard in gaining an in-depth knowledge of both his family's business and the market in which it sits.

And he is keen to further extend his knowledge by getting his hands dirty on the shop floor.

The MD said: "I don't have any engineering background or training, but I'm very interested in that stuff, though.

"I can't operate every machine in the building and certainly not as well as our trained and experienced engineers, but it's important for me to have an understanding of how things work.

IAN'S TOP TIPS

- People are really important. "Picking good ones and maintaining good relationships with them has got to make sense and that is true with suppliers and customers as much as with staff."
- Maintain a positive attitude. "I am fairly sure that people and businesses with defeatist attitudes get defeated. Whatever may happen, I think it is important to take as many positives from any situation as possible."
- Focus on the basics. "For us, that means hose clips. Our customers come to us for hose clips, so that is the first thing we have to get right."
- Ask for help. "Whatever the subject, there will always be somebody who knows more about it, so ask them – you might learn something."

"It is often the case that when two people who know more than I do in the company come to me and want money for two different things I can only afford one.

"I need to be able to understand what it is they need the money for and then make an informed decision."

Jennings says his workforce gives the firm the advantage over its rivals.

"I have absolute supreme confidence in my staff. The fact the company has reached this age is all to do with their expertise and ability. The only lasting competitive advantage is knowledge, as that cannot be replicated.

"If the advantage was location, then rivals can move into your town. "If it's machinery, then they can buy it. It's people who make the difference. And without doubt we've got some great people here."

Networking banishes the gloom

DON'T listen to the merchants of gloom – there's never been a better time for local entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses.

The verdict comes from the Wealden Business Group, a Tenterden-based networking organisation whose members range from a plumber to a solicitor, from electrician to finance broker.

Group chairman Mike Parmar said: "If people who want to run their own businesses listen to the prophets of doom and the claims that banks aren't lending, they're sadly misinformed.

"We're finding it's a great time for start-ups. Two of our newest young members – a tree surgeon and a plumber – have started up since the recession began and are going great guns.

"And our banker members are being highly positive: if you have a good business plan, then they have money to lend."

Parmar, who runs telecoms consultancy Wave2 Communications from his home in Appledore, said: "I know plenty of people who have started up businesses, many from their spare bedrooms, and they're doing very well.

MIKE PARMAR: Positive outlook

"And there are members of our group who were thinking about retiring and haven't, not because they can't afford to, but because there are so many good business opportunities out there."

However, Parmar stresses that new business start-ups need to be disciplined and professional about marketing, cash control and networking.

"People buy from people", he said. "For instance, there have been no fewer than 400 referrals between our 30 members in the past year. Put simply – networking works."

Wealden Business Group welcomes applications for membership from local businessmen and women. Visit www.wealden-business-group.co.uk or phone secretary Justin Nelson on 0844 880 4698 for more information.

The group, which meets each week at Little Silver Hotel, Tenterden, has guest speakers, organises trips – visits to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Canary Wharf and Port Lympne are on this year's schedule – and enjoy regular social occasions to raise funds for their nominated charity, The Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth, near Ashford.

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Kent Business School

Masterful use of expertise from campus

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESS experts have been providing their consultancy services to small and medium-sized companies as part of their postgraduate qualification.

The Kent Masters in Business Administration (MBA) students offered their advice to eight firms across the county during Consultancy Week.

Simon Reed, producer of Rough Old Wife Cider, based in Old Wives Lees, near Canterbury, said he had benefited from the student service.

"The students delivered a very good overview of the cider business and spotted some elements of our business and its portrayal on the website – both deliberate and accidental – which could be sharpened up," he said.

"The students remarked on the lack of obvious Twitter connection from the website and this has already been addressed."

Jonathan Ryan, a wedding photographer from Canterbury, said: "The questions they asked in the first five minutes made me realise this was going to be a useful day. At the presentation, I realised they had figured out stuff in three hours that I'd spent four years realising. There were genuinely new ideas that I'll be trialling which will hopefully increase business for me."

"The process went much deeper than I had expected and I found their interest in my business inspiring," said Annie McNamara, a copywriter from Tankerton.

"They asked perceptive questions and came up with very constructive suggestions relating to my research, pricing and website strategy."

The consultancy task was one of a range of networking activities the Kent Business School professionals will have to undertake to gain the MBA.

Students have also conducted a live economic impact study on the possibility of a new Kent airport at the request of the BBC.

MBA director Rajendra Shirolé said: "The possibility of a new airport in Kent has received much media coverage, so it is good to see Kent MBA students at Kent Business School working on a Live Economic Impact Study for the BBC as well as being involved in such a high-profile initiative for Kent.

"Their study involves identifying the economic benefits of a new airport in the region, and its contribution to the South East economy.

"It is just one of the projects undertaken as part of the Kent MBA programme which enables students to work with local and national organisations on some of their key projects, gaining a real and relevant insight into how their business is affected by current economic challenges and changes.

"The study also provides a collaborative approach for students to grow tangible business connections, gain a deeper understanding of the challenges the organisation faces, enrich their business knowledge and sharpen their leadership skills."

Kent MBA students will also be working on initiatives for Kent County Council as part of their MBA project, which includes enterprises such as applying systems thinking in the public sector; social return on investment; and development of an email and internet usage policy, among several other projects scheduled for delivery between June and August.

Other Kent MBA students are working with the power generation organisation Cummins, at its Manston site in Thanet.

They are looking towards the possibility of providing a live strategic project that involves working collaboratively with the senior management team at Cummins.

The details are being finalised, with the possibility of this joint intervention starting in early summer. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/kbs

EXPERT ADVICE: MBA students and Kent companies have collaborated to mutual benefit

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Flanagan joins trust team

SALLY FLANAGAN

EAST Malling Trust has appointed Sally Flanagan as its business development director.

The former Hadlow College business development manager has been brought in to help the charitable trust strengthen its ties with the business community, academia and key industry and community organisations.

Flanagan said she was looking forward to the role. "With food security and adapting to climate change increasingly on the agenda, it is clear the trust, and the work of East Malling Research, are internationally important," she said.

"I'm delighted to be joining the team and playing my part in nurturing the already strong relations between the trust and key organisations in the land-based community."

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Park workshop on employment law

THE latest employment law updates will be explained at a Kent Science Park workshop next month.

Employment experts from Maidstone-based law firm Brachers LLP will discuss recent changes to the default retirement age, flexible working and shared parental leave.

The company's Richard Thompson said: "Employment law is probably the area of law that is of the most constant concern to business owners.

"Legislation can move so quickly and it's extremely difficult to understand your legal situation regarding employees.

"An issue confusing a lot of employers at the moment surrounds the leave people are entitled to take when they, or their partner, are having a child.

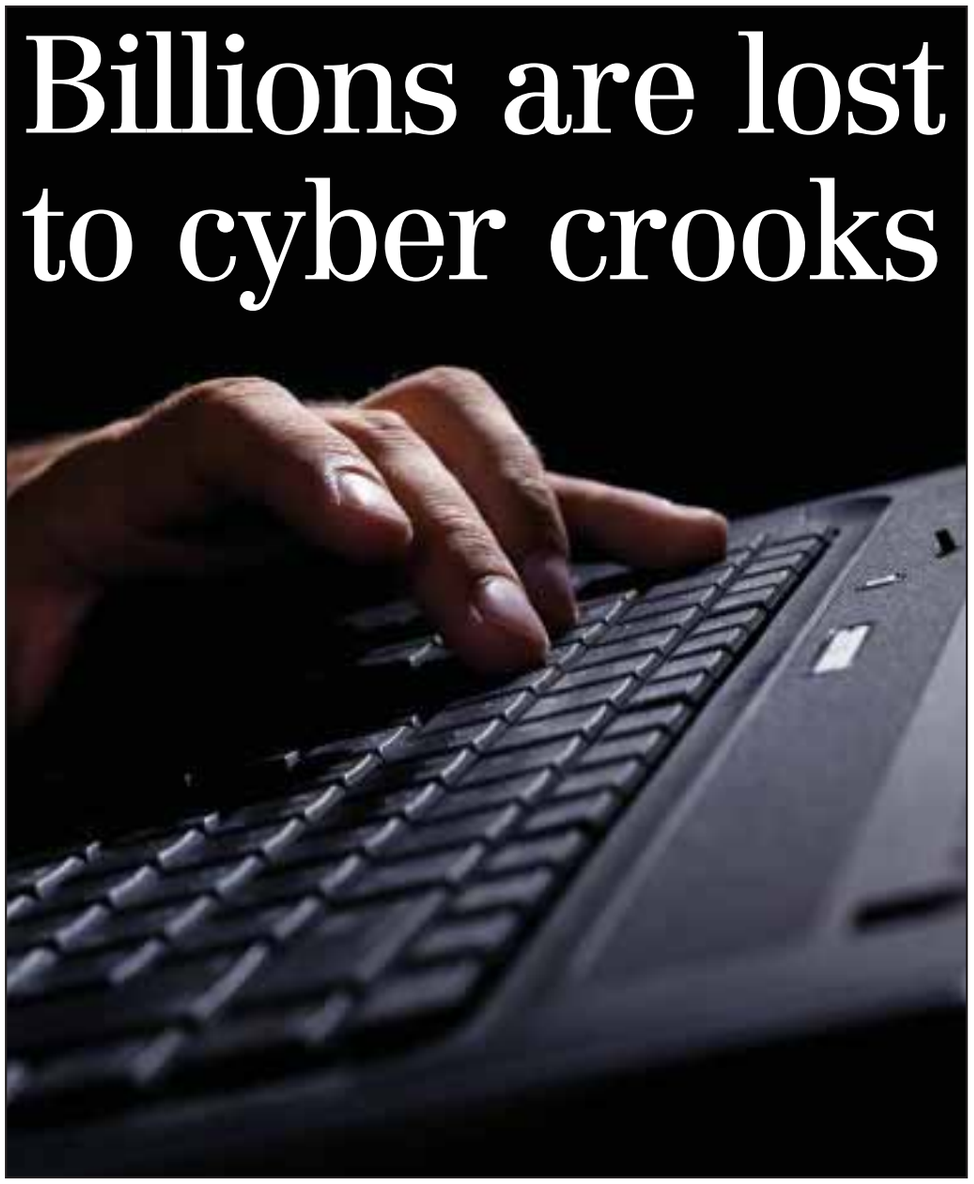
"Much has been made of the Government's extensions to paternity-leave entitlements and pay, and there is now legislation allowing a couple to effectively share out the time they can spend off work.

"For employers, knowing where you stand can be a minefield. Our workshops always start by looking at the latest legislation and clearly explaining the implications.

"We are then always happy to take any questions from delegates on issues that are of particular concern."

The workshop will be on Tuesday, April 26, at the science park, near Sittingbourne.

Billions are lost to cyber crooks



BUSINESSES are being advised to protect themselves against the rising risk of cyber crime.

The warning was made by Ashford-based Bluefin Insurance Services after Cabinet Office research found data breaches and malicious attacks were costing UK businesses £21 billion a year.

The company's head of customer proposition, Peter Castle, said: "Cyber crime is an increasingly serious problem, but many traditional insurance policies could leave businesses vulnerable in the event of an attack."

The Government report revealed the most common forms of cyber crime were theft of intellectual property, industrial espionage, extortion and theft of customer data. It is thought the true cost of cyber crime to UK businesses could be much higher as many incidents are not reported publicly.

Further research by the Ponemon Institute indicates a 7 per cent rise in the cost of data breaches compared with the same period last year. The institute found 77 per cent of UK businesses had suffered at least one data breach over the past year at a cost of £112 per record lost.

Despite a rise in the number of high-profile data breaches, with insurance giant Zurich and the Rural Payments Agency sanctioned for losing sensitive data, Castle said many many insurance policies had failed to keep pace with the growth of virtual crime.

"Even the smallest business can accumulate critical information and sensitive customer details on its computer files and the loss of these assets could have a catastrophic effect on the business and its customers," he said.

"Historically, most policies cover against physical loss or damage and, as a result, won't protect against electronic risk exposure as data is virtual and intangible.

"However, in the past year or so, a small number of insurance companies have responded by developing policies that cover additional areas such as breach of network security, privacy liability, reputational harm and cyber extortion."

CYBER CRIME

Protect your business

To help safeguard businesses from the threat of cyber crime, Bluefin offers the following advice:

- Examine current insurance policies and consider whether specialist cover is required.
- Review IT systems and ensure all firewall protection and anti-virus software is updated regularly.
- Conduct a cyber-crime risk assessment to identify any weak points in security.
- Provide refresher training to employees highlighting ways to improve data security.
- The Cabinet Office report identifies businesses in IP intensive industries such as pharmaceuticals and manufacturing as being most at risk of cyber crime.

Businesses in these fields should consider taking out extra protection to guard against the consequences of a loss of data.

GOING UNDERGROUND: The Bunker Secure Hosting at Ash

The Bunker mentality takes on golden glow

THE Bunker secure data centre has shown it values service as much as IT know-how after becoming a gold member of the Service Desk Institute (SDI).

The Bunker Secure Hosting Ltd houses computer systems for clients such as the Government, financial-services organisations and technology firms from a military-grade nuclear bunker at Ash, near Sandwich.

A company official said being a member of the SDI gave The Bunker access to the best industry knowledge and expert advice.

Service manager Nicola Davies said: "A modern data centre requires more than technicians to keep servers running. We provide fully-outsourced IT solutions, including first-line customer support for applications, proactive problem prevention and comprehensive customer support.

"The service team are an integral part of The Bunker's data centre as a service solution.

"I am delighted The Bunker's service desk is now a gold member of SDI and we will continue to ensure our team remains ahead on innovation."

The Bunker is protected by a 3.5-metre perimeter fence, 3m-thick walls, solid-steel doors, guard dogs, CCTV, military electromagnetic pulse protection, security guards and sophisticated access controls.

DATA PROTECTION: The Bunker's clients include the Government

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight on Finance

KENT BOXING SHOW RESULTS

Tom Dallas (Chatham) beat Gabor Farkas (Hungary) by KO
Gavin Tait (Sheerness) beat Danny Dontchev (Bulgaria) on points (cuts stoppage)
Scott Woolford (Ramsgate) beat Jay Morris (Newport IOW) on points (59-56)
Dan Woodgate (Minster, Thanet) beat Elvis Dube (Derby) on points (40-36)
Vinny Woolford (Ramsgate) beat Gavin Putney (Luton) by TKO
Lewis Pettitt (Erith) beat Pavel Senkovs (Latvia) on points (40-36)
Nicky Jenman (Brighton) beat Ricky Boulter (Lincoln) on points (40-36)
Ross Payne (Crawley) beat Bheki Moyo (South Africa) on points (39-37)

Dallas' knock out success

CHATHAM heavyweight Tom Dallas may have preserved his unbeaten professional record by knocking out Gabor Farkas, but admitted his performance was far from perfect.

Fighting in front of his home crowd for the first time since leaving the amateur ranks in 2007, Dallas quickly went after the Hungarian with a series of clubbing body-shots.

BIG HIT: Tom Dallas floors Gabor Farkas with a big right hand

Farkas had already been put on the canvas once by the time Dallas knocked him out in the third round to chalk up his 14th straight win, but afterwards, he acknowledged there was plenty of room for improvement.

Undercard

The 25-year-old said: "I was a bit too eager because I was following him, trying to cut him off and not waiting to throw my shots. I should have taken my time a bit more."

Dallas is now in line for a return to Medway Park on May 13, having been lined up as part of the undercard for Sam Webb's British title fight.

His manager, Mark Roe, was delighted to see Dallas win so convincingly, but felt that such overwhelming home support had perhaps clouded his judgment inside the ring.

"I know Tom could have boxed better than he did," he said.

"I think he wanted to show the crowd what he could do and that stopped him from performing as well as he normally does."

BROTHERS: Scott (above) and Vinny Woolford both won their bouts on Friday

Woolford brothers praise boxing fans

A SOUTHERN Area title shot awaits Scott Woolford after the Ramsgate middleweight emerged unscathed from his bout with Jay Morris.

Woolford, 27, will meet Ryan Toms at London's York Hall on May 15 after edging past Morris on points at the end of their six-round contest at Medway Park.

Completing a family double after his brother Vinny opened the show by knocking out Gavin Putney, Woolford paid tribute to the support which boosted him to victory.

"The crowd were absolutely amazing, they lifted me when I needed it," he said.

Having seen off Putney inside two rounds, Vinny Woolford was able to watch the rest of the show from ringside and he echoed his younger brother's appraisal of the event.

"A lot of friends and family came to support us, there were a lot of Kent people," he said. "It was amazing, it felt like everyone out there was cheering me on, and that really gave me a big lift."

Medway Park in line for title fight

The first bell of the eagerly anticipated Kent boxing show finally rang last week, ending in a clean sweep for the county's boxers. **STEVE TERVET** and **DAVID PRITCHARD** were ringside

Pictures by **ADY KERRY**

KENT could be set to host a British title defence live on satellite television in May following last week's Medway Park boxing show, which wowed high-profile promoter Frank Maloney.

An estimated crowd of 1,200 turned up last Friday to watch the county's finest boxers rack up a clean sweep of home wins at the Gillingham venue and Maloney, sitting at ringside, was impressed.

Chislehurst's Sam Webb defends his British light-middleweight title against Prince Arron on May 13 and Mark Roe, who organised and promoted the Medway Park show, is confident Maloney's influence could see the fight take place in Kent.

"Frank loves the venue," he said. "I think he'd like to put it on here. Sky will have a look at the venue and I don't think there's anyone from the board of control that wasn't happy with the venue.

"I think we could get at least another 500 to 1,000 people in here if the seating's done correctly. Times are hard out there, we know that, but we had perhaps 1,200 people in here."

Roe's original plan to host the show at Lordswood Football Club fell through last summer, and licensing difficulties then forced a further two postponements.

IMPRESSED: Frank Maloney was at the event, which drew an estimated crowd of 1,200

However, a passionate home crowd and evenly-matched contests in the ring made the wait worthwhile and Roe was left to reflect on a job well done.

He said: "It was successful with the crowd and successful with the boxing because all the home boxers had wins. All in all, it was a good night.

"It's been hard because of the climate, getting over bridges and stepping stones and a little bit of red tape, but I don't think there's anyone who went home disappointed.

"Kent's got a great venue and I'm sure people will say next time 'I don't want to miss that one' so I think we'll all go on to better things from this."

VICTOR: Dan Woodgate won on points

Woody a winner on points decision

DAN Woodgate realised a boxing dream at the Kent boxing show as he took his place on the bill alongside both Scott and Vinny Woolford for the first time.

The Thanet trio trained together as youngsters and Woodgate, from Minster, said fighting in their company matched the experience of walking out to cheers from the raucous Kent crowd.

"It was brilliant, it's everything I wanted to achieve early on in my pro career," he said. "I was a stable-mate with Scotty and Vinny and we always said we wanted to box on a pro-show together. I've boxed with either one of them, but this time we were all on the same show and I couldn't have asked for any more."

Woodgate's points win over Elvis Dube saw the 27-year-old cautious for the most part before producing a storming fourth-round display to seal the result.

Tait rewarded for sticking to plan

REVENGE was sweet for Gavin Tait, pictured, as he produced a mature display in a tense atmosphere to overcome Danny Dontchev at the second attempt.

The Sheerness welterweight found himself on the wrong end of a dubious points decision when the pair met in January, but at Medway Park, the scorecard was kinder.

Cuts to each eye meant Tait (pictured) didn't go the distance, but when his fight called to a halt, the 35-year-old was ahead on points and left the ring victorious.

"In the first fight, we just traded punches and I fought more with my heart than my brain," he admitted. "We always bring a good crowd with us and in the past, I've got caught up in the occasion. Everyone's chanting your name and you go forward, because that's what they like to see. This time, though, I stuck to the game plan."

Referee urges promoters back to county

IN CHARGE: Referee Ian John-Lewis oversaw Tom Dallas' fight

TOP referee Ian John-Lewis has urged more boxing promoters to bring big fighters to Kent after the success of last week's Medway Park show.

The 49-year-old, who took charge of Vitali Klitschko's heavyweight world title defence against Shannon Briggs in October, shared last week's officiating duties with Richie Davies.

John-Lewis' work came to an end when Tom Dallas knocked out Gabor Farkas, and afterwards he hailed the event a thorough success.

"It was absolutely fantastic and it brought back a lot of memories," he said. "When I used to box, a lot of people used to come here so I can't understand why these promoters are not promoting down here.

"We've now got a local heavyweight [Dallas], I'm pretty confident he can go on to compete for the British title and Medway's a really good boxing fanbase.

"If they start advertising it a bit better, there's definitely a boxing crowd in Medway without a doubt. I boxed here four or five times and it was pretty successful."

Born in Gillingham, John-Lewis boxed in both Gravesend and Medway during his professional career, most latterly a stoppage victory over Martin Garza at the Black Lion Leisure Centre – now Medway Park – in June, 1990.

Now's the natural time for me to retire, says Spencer

By STEVE TERVET

CATHERINE Spencer has described her decision to retire from all rugby this week as "a natural handover" in the wake of England's fifth straight Six Nations title.

The 31-year-old, who played on the international stage for seven years and captained her country for three, announced on Monday she was calling time on her glittering playing career.

Spencer, born in Ashford, first experienced the sport as an eight-year-old in the minis section at Folkestone and went on to play professionally for Worcester, Bath and Bristol.

She led England to last year's World Cup final on home soil and looked on course to finally get her hands on rugby's biggest prize, only to see New Zealand prevail 13-10 at the Twickenham Stoop.

Spencer relinquished the captaincy after the tournament and admitted the defeat had ultimately nudged her towards retirement.

"I've been playing for a long time and I was pretty certain I wasn't going to make the next World Cup," she said. "I'll be 35 [in 2014] so I felt it was the natural time to step away from the team, because they're strong at the moment.

"I wanted to carry on playing, I wasn't sure how long for, but I knew I wanted to get to the end of the Six Nations before I made any concrete decisions. It's a natural handover, stepping down as captain before the Six Nations and then retiring from rugby afterwards."

Picture: RUGBYMATTERS.NET

DONE: Former England captain Catherine Spencer has called time on her career

While other nations have seen their squads disintegrate since the World Cup, Spencer is the first England player to walk away and she believes the consistency of selection will stand the side in good stead.

The highlight of her career came when she was awarded her 50th cap as England defeated the All Blacks 10-3 in front of a 12,000-strong crowd at Twickenham in 2009, with Spencer scoring the only try.

Making headlines at the top level came only at the cost of several sacrifices, though.

"Playing for your country is hard work," Spencer explained. "I've had to make lots of choices in my life, I missed friends' weddings through rugby and lots of social occasions, plus I had to balance my work with training.

"It's nice to be able to sit back and feel proud of what I've achieved as an individual, and as part of the team. When you're in that bubble, playing for your country becomes normal life, but now I can step back from it all."

During her time with Folkestone, Spencer became the first woman to represent England while playing outside the Premiership. Even after she joined the professional ranks, she always cited her Kent roots as the key factor to her success at the top level.

"We're extremely proud," said Folkestone's vice-chairman, David Roseveare. "Catherine's a great girl, she's been particularly helpful with the youngsters, providing a real role model to look up to. She's put Folkestone on the map and that's very important when you're looking for sponsors, to have someone of that stature."

Doran the one to watch at Lydden

A BUMPER motorsport crowd is expected this weekend as more than 100 drivers descend on Lydden Hill for the first round of the British Rallycross Championship.

The circuit, between Canterbury and Dover, will also host European rallycross action next month, but for now the focus is on the curtain-raiser for the new national season.

Pat Doran will again be the man to beat as he bids to kick-start a successful defence of the supercar title he has won in each of the past two seasons.

Having swapped his Fiesta for a Focus supercar, Doran faces stiff competition from Heathfield's Julian Godfrey, who has stepped up from the supernational category to drive Doran's title-winning car this term.

The highly-modified two-wheel drive cars will race in the supernational championship this season, with five other supporting categories running on the rallycross bill.

Sittingbourne's Liam Doran will also be among the throng of drivers in action this weekend as he gives his Citroen C4 supercar a shakedown in preparation for the European Rallycross opener at Lydden on April 24-25.

Doran won two rounds of the championship last season on his way to third place in Division One and he should get a tough test at his home circuit this weekend.

TOP: Pat Doran will be in the rallycross opener at Lydden Hill

Among the other internationals gearing up for the new European campaign is Norway's Knut Ove Børseth, who will give his Ford Focus its first competitive outing at Lydden.

Racing gets under way at 9am on the Saturday and 12.30pm on the Sunday.

Trucks start the Brands Hatch racing season

OPENER: These five tonne trucks will race around Brands Hatch this weekend

BRANDS Hatch hosts its first major event of the 2011 season this weekend when it stages the opening round of the Delphi British Truck Racing Championship.

Weighing in at five tonnes with 1,000bhp, the trucks are the biggest machines to visit the West Kingsdown circuit this year, though despite their size they can still go from 0-100mph in less than five seconds.

Topping the bill for the race will be local riders Graham and Steven Powell, brothers from West Kingsdown and Aylesford respectively, while another West Kingsdown native, Oscar Clarke, will also be on the grid.

A total of four truck races will take place, including a memorial event for the former head of the British Truck Racing Association, Roger Brookfield, who recently passed away after a short illness.

The support card includes a NASCAR-style pickup race, a legends event and the South East Saloon Car championship.

The action gets under way at 4.15pm on Saturday and 11.40am on Sunday. Tickets cost £12 each day.

Conway on the grid

MIKE Conway races for the first time since his Indy500 horror smash this weekend as he lines up on the grid for the Honda Grand Prix of St Petersburg in Florida.

The first race of the new IndyCar season also marks the 27-year-old's debut for Andretti Autosport as the Sevenoaks racer bids to challenge the championship's top drivers.

Conway (pictured above), suffered back and leg fractures when he crashed spectacularly at Indianapolis last May and has not driven competitively in the 10-month interim period.

Following qualifying on Saturday, the race starts at 6.30pm UK time on Sunday.

Camier battles back

WORLD Superbike rider Leon Camier returns to action in front of his home crowd this weekend as the championship heads to its second round at Donington Park.

Camier (pictured) was struck down by glandular fever prior to the season opener in Australia four weeks ago, but produced two gutsy rides to pick up 13 points.

A sixth-placed finish in the second race at Phillip Island leaves the 24-year-old Aprilia rider, from Ashford, 11th in the WSB standings ahead of Sunday's two races.

"I feel fine now, I've been ordered to rest and relax for the past couple of weeks to allow my body to recover," he said before the race. "I will slowly start to train before the race and monitor my condition as I go. I have to be careful I don't overdo it and cause long-term damage, but I'll definitely be racing at Donington Park and hopefully do a good job for British fans."

Steele in double win

AARON Steele made a flying start to the season by dominating the opening weekend of the MSV F3 Cup.

The 22-year-old (pictured) romped to comfortable victories in both races at Snetterton after setting a blistering pace in qualifying.

Steele, from Rochester, only signed up for Grays Motorsport just days before the season began. His car had not been used for two years but after early teething problems were ironed out in Friday's practice session he went on to qualify with a lap nearly three seconds faster than his nearest rival.

Steele's one-lap pace translated into both races, as he left the pack behind to win by 29 and 32 seconds respectively.

The season continues at Donington on the weekend of April 2-3, giving Steele and his team some time to work on the car.

Much in MCC call up

ALL-ROUNDER Paul Muchall has been called up to the MCC squad for their four-day game against county champions Nottinghamshire in Abu Dhabi, starting on Sunday.

Muchall, who plays his club cricket with Sittingbourne side Gore Court, also represented Kent in last season's Clydesdale Bank 40. He replaces injured fast bowler Simon Jones in the 14-man squad.

Meanwhile, Kent's Susie Rowe is one of seven full-time players named in the MCC Women's Young Cricketers squad to be based at Lord's this summer. Rowe's club-mate, Dee Tress, has been named on the scholarship scheme and will join the squad for the latter part of the season.

Kent's decision won't be for Saker not trying

Triallist just happy to be vying for place in squad

SERIOUS INJURY: Neil Saker has had operations on both of his knees
Picture: GETTY IMAGES

By GLENN PEARSON

WHETHER or not triallist Neil Saker earns himself a contract at Kent this season, the ex-Surrey seamer is just pleased to have rekindled his love for the game after injury threatened to cut his career short.

Saker has been on trial with Kent for the last two weeks, looking to impress the club's coaching staff and win a deal with the county. If successful, it would be a just reward for the 26-year-old whose career looked to be over after an injury-plagued time at Surrey ended with him being released in 2008.

After taking the decision to have operations on both knees, Saker worked his way back to fitness before being included in the Unicorns squad last season. For the first time in several years he was able to train and play injury free and the whole experience has given Saker – the first graduate of the Surrey Academy – a new perspective.

"Having had both my knees operated on in the last 18 months, I've recaptured my love of the game and I'm now pain free, which is almost unheard of for me," he said.

"My last year at Surrey was hard work, I was in a lot of discomfort and pain and to be honest I wasn't enjoying it. I wanted to give my body a rest and it then became apparent that I needed to have operations and the chances of actually playing again were quite doubtful.

Tentative

"It was a really long road back and it was a good 10 months before I was back starting to play again and even then it was a bit tentative. Fortunately I was able to play for the Unicorns last year and it was great being thrown back in at the deep end.

"They were a great bunch of guys who just enjoy playing good cricket; there are obviously some talented players there, which showed with some of the performances we put in."

Saker was used more regularly in Surrey's one-day side during his time at the Oval and if used in the same manner by Kent, it would give skipper Rob Key scope to rest the likes of Simon Cook and Robbie Joseph, who are likely to get through a lot of overs this summer.

Saker said: "I would love to get a deal here but that's no guarantee – I have to put in performances and see where that leaves me.

"I've not spoken to the county about anything like that, I'm just here looking to impress and improve and I need to be consistent. If they like me then maybe it could progress and lead to me again playing county cricket, but that's out of my hands and I'm not putting any pressure on myself.

"The enjoyment factor is the most important thing for me. There have been some things that have happened in my personal life since I stopped playing for Surrey and it puts cricket into perspective. I'm just loving playing cricket and am thankful for the opportunity."

Picture: ADY KERRY

RETURN? Kent hope to go back to Dubai

Dubai return not ruled out

A RETURN to Dubai for pre-season training next year could be on the cards for Kent after a successful week at the ICC Global Cricket Academy.

The 12-man squad arrived back in the county on Thursday, fresh from a hastily arranged training camp at former Australia wicket-keeper Rod Marsh's academy in Dubai.

It has set the side up for the two-day pre-season fixture with Lancashire at Beckenham, which starts on Monday, and Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, said the club would look into doing it again next year.

"It looks like I'm going to have to magic up some money for future years because they are clearly sold on it, but that's okay," he said. "If they come back and hit the ground running, then how can we afford not to do it? That would be a nice problem to have.

"The total price was value for money and just reading what the boys have been tweeting, you can see they are very enthusiastic about it and although it was just a week, it's as good a period of preparation as they have ever had."

Elsewhere, work continues on the redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground and Clifford insists it will be ready to host Kent's first game of the season, against Gloucestershire on April 26, although possibly not fully completed.

He said: "There's no point saying 'everything is going to be finished; but we will be operational, certainly to the level you would expect in April in terms of the crowds that we get."

Ex-county all-rounder in St Lawrence return

A FORMER Kent favourite has returned eight years after leaving the county to help coach the first-team squad ahead of the new season, ***writes Glenn Pearson.***

Mark Ealham was back at St Lawrence this week working with the remainder of the Kent side left out of the Dubai trip and a group of triallists, and will continue to do some part-time coaching at his former club.

The 41-year-old scored 11,349 first-class runs at an average of 31.96 and took 643 wickets at 27.93 in a 20-year career, as well as playing 64 One-Day Internationals and eight Test matches for England.

The former all-rounder spent 14 seasons at Kent, before seeing out his career at Nottinghamshire, and was part of the championship-winning side in 2005.

After announcing his retirement at the end of the 2009 season, Ealham followed in his father Alan's shoes by becoming cricket master at King's School, Canterbury.

With him working so close to the club, chief executive Jamie Clifford said it was a no-brainer asking Ealham to come in and work with the players.

"He is doing some part-time coaching and is filling in the gaps where we have gaps and it's great to have someone bringing even more experience to our squad," he said. "Having a former pro with strong links to the club and him being just down the road, it seemed sensible to have Mark in.

"As it turned out, with the majority of the squad going to Dubai, the extra pair of hands to look after the guys that stayed here proved crucial.

"He is a great person to have around. It's good that he is a Kent man, it seems crazy with him being just down the road for him not to work with us and he was keen to do it."

While Ealham has been working with the squad in pre-season, Clifford didn't rule out the arrangement continuing during the summer.

He said: "His first priority is King's School Canterbury and I imagine he will be pretty busy when the cricket season starts for them, but we'll use him as and when we can.

"It's just nice to have a former player on the ground and one that has experienced a lot and achieved a lot in the game and I'm sure the players will respond to that."

COACHING ROLE: Mark Ealham has been working with the Kent squad in pre-season

TRAINING: Ashley Shaw

Shaw making progress after injury

ROOKIE pace bowler Ashley Shaw had his first net at St Lawrence this week since breaking down in the winter with a recurrence of shin splints.

The 19-year-old bowled for the first time on Wednesday and reported no pain in his troublesome shins. The left-arm seamer had an operation on his shins last year after suffering with pain during the course of his first season in county cricket.

It was hoped surgery would correct the problem, but a week into a stint training in Melbourne, Australia, this winter, the Crewe-born cricketer experienced pain and was forced to return to the county.

However, it was decided Shaw wouldn't need any further treatment and instead would wear a special fitting in his shoes.

After working with physio Nimmo Reid, the seamer is now fit and able to take part in outdoor training with the rest of the squad and will step up his preparations for the start of the season.

Twenty20 fans urged to vote with their feet

Loss of three home fixtures in 2012 could see county down as much as £180,000

DISAPPOINTED: Jamie Clifford voted against the reduction in Twenty20 games

Picture: ADY KERRY

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT chief executive Jamie Clifford has urged the county's supporters to prove the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) were wrong to reduce the Twenty20 programme from 2012.

The ECB came to a decision on Tuesday to shrink the number of Twenty20 fixtures from 16 to 10 games from next season, a move that could prove hugely costly to Kent.

Clifford voted against the reduction, which will see Kent play just five Twenty20 home fixtures next year as opposed to eight this summer, describing it as a "backward step" which will impact on the club's ability to generate revenue. With the club making on average about £60,000 for a home Twenty20 fixture, the loss of three games could see Kent down as much as £180,000. This could be tempered by the ECB's offer of compensation to counties, although it's not known how much at this stage.

"I just think it's the wrong decision and a backward step at a time when counties are under massive financial pressure," Clifford said. "They are sticking to this short block of Twenty20 between June and July which means you don't get any county championship cricket during that period and shortens your ability to sell to the consumer.

"It goes against some really simple basic business principles in marketing a product; the first is you expand the time you put your product in front of the consumer. So what do we do on Twenty20? We squeeze it into as short a time as possible and what happens is the consumer gets fed up with it.

Frustrated

"If you are a Twenty20 fan you should be able to watch it in May and September, not just June and July. I'm very frustrated."

The news could hardly have come at a worse time. Kent announced operating losses of £595,000 only last month, while their St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury is in the middle of a major overhaul – costing £8.2 million – which together with the installation of floodlights, is geared towards making the most of 20-over cricket.

It now means Twenty20 at The Nevill and Beckenham are seriously under threat after this year. Clifford has now urged Kent members to vote with their feet this summer.

"Other ways of generating revenues are going to have to take on increased importance," he said. "We should be able to generate money from matches, but now we have to think about the asset of this cricket ground with its facilities and how else can we use it.

"It does make going to Tunbridge Wells and Beckenham difficult, those venues are vulnerable because we have invested in this site (Canterbury) and we've got to make it work.

"I'm particularly frustrated because I feel we are getting our act together as a county, we are redeveloping our ground, we have a sales and marketing team that are absolutely buzzing at the moment and then we get this negative which is the reduction in the programme. I'd love for the Kent cricketing public to show the ECB they have made a terrible mistake by packing out our ground for Twenty20."

The ECB also decided to leave the county championship in its current 16-game format.

Hess won't give up on top three finish

AUTOMATIC promotion is the focus for Gillingham despite the prospect of dropping out of the play-off places before they kick-off at Cheltenham.

A clash with the England game in Cardiff yesterday pushed the Gills' trip to the Robins back until Sunday, after the rest of the sides in League Two's top 10 have played.

With the threat of Gillingham's two-month stay in the play-off positions ending before today's game, manager Andy Hessenthaler remains confident his side can still gatecrash the top three.

He said: "We have to keep our eye on second and third, that's what we've still got to aim for. There's 24 points still available to us and the tally needed to finish there will be lower than last season. We have a chance and while we have that we've got to try and finish in the top three."

Gillingham have become difficult to beat on their travels, with the 1-1 draw at Burton a week ago their seventh successive away stalemate.

Although another point may not do wonders for their league position in the short-term, Hessenthaler feels it is too early to label the trip as a must-win fixture.

He said: "I think it is OK, providing we're winning our home games, which we've been doing. I would like a couple more wins away from home and we'll probably need it, along with winning our four home games, to finish in the top three."

BETTER: Dennis Oli is likely to feature after recovering from illness

Picture: ADY KERRY

Dennis Oli missed the Gills' reserve game on Wednesday with an illness but is likely to make the squad, while Danny Jackman and Tony Sinclair are both doubts with ankle injuries.

BACK: Danny Spiller has boosted the Gills' options by returning from injury

Picture: ADY KERRY

Gills miss out on Whelpdale signing

THE LOAN window closed this week without any further additions to the Gillingham squad, with manager Andy Hessenthaler insisting it was already strong enough to win promotion.

The only potential signing was Chris Whelpdale, who has been a target since the midfielder scored three goals in four games during a loan spell at Priestfield in the winter. An approach was made to bring the 22-year-old back, but Peterborough boss Darren Ferguson was reportedly reluctant to let players go during the League One run-in.

Hessenthaler was disappointed to miss out on a player he admires greatly, but reiterated he was happy to go into the final weeks of the season with his existing squad.

He said: "We had an opportunity to bring in Chris, but I think Darren Ferguson wants to keep his squad together because they're going for promotion. I believe the squad we've got now is big enough as it is and they're capable of getting promotion. Danny Spiller is back now so the squad is a bit stronger."

One area the Gills boss was keen to strengthen earlier in the campaign was up front. A lack of cover for first choice strike partnership Cody McDonald and Adebayo Akinfenwa was a concern, but Hessenthaler is putting his faith in the fit-again Dennis Oli, who has one goal in 20 appearances in a season disrupted by injury, to step in if necessary.

He said: "We've been working with Dennis in training and he looks really sharp. If there was a problem with Cody or Bayo I wouldn't hesitate in using him now."

League clubs to deliberate Kent Senior Cup move

THREE Football League clubs have been contacted to join the Kent Senior Cup next season.

As exclusively revealed by Kent on Sunday last month, the Kent County Football Association (KCFA) are looking to revamp the 122-year-old competition by encouraging three of their affiliated teams to play in next season's tournament.

Now, Kent's only Football League club, Gillingham, together with KCFA affiliated members Charlton Athletic and Millwall, have been approached and the county association are awaiting their reply.

Paul Dolan (pictured), chief executive of the KCFA, is keen to inject life back into the competition and help the county's senior clubs by attracting larger crowds.

He said: "Once we have confirmation either way from the three Football League clubs, we are going to hold a meeting with all the senior clubs to discuss the format of the competition and get people involved to talk about how we can improve it for next season.

"Whether that means bringing round one forward or playing it in pre-season and how the Football League clubs would be accommodated – if they joined – they're all things to be discussed."

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Green, green grass of home

Tips on how to spruce up your lawn this spring

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

Imagine a sea of green velvet devoid of lumps, bumps, molehills and moss. Now look at your lawn.

Of course, not all of us have the time to lovingly tend our lawns so they won't harbour the odd dandelion or have fallen victim to patches of moss or divots created by animals or children, but there are ways to spruce up your lawn to make it look at least presentable.

In spring, many gardeners consider starting from scratch and laying a new lawn from seed or turfing an area, but remember that the ground needs to be well prepared before you start and that grass, as a rule, is a high-maintenance option.

Don't think that a bit of weeding, feeding and watering alone is going to assure you of a bowling-green finish. If you are time-pressed, you may have to accept and start to enjoy the weeds and moss that will creep into your lawn. But to many, as long as their lawn is green, flat and healthy, that's all that matters.

Lawns are frequently the focal point of the garden and make a neat, defining edge to beds and borders. So when lawn edges become overgrown and tatty, it can have an adverse effect on the look of the whole garden.

Now might be a good time to have a walk in your garden and examine the state of your lawn edges. They are fairly easy to repair and it doesn't have to be too time-consuming a task.

If you have a damaged lawn edge, first cut out a rectangle of turf with a half-moon edger, incorporating the affected grass and using a straight edge such as a plank of wood as a guide. Then turn the turf around so that the damaged edge is nearer the middle of the lawn.

NO SHORT CUTS: Weeding and feeding play a major part in making your lawn look its best

The gap created by the jagged edge which is now further into the lawn should be filled with garden soil, sifted to a fine tilth. Then firm and level it to make sure it is flush with the surrounding grass.

Sow grass seed on top, water well and cover the hole with clear plastic sheeting until the seeds have germinated; this will help retain moisture and keep birds at bay.

Other maintenance jobs which will greatly improve the look of your lawn can also be done in spring.

Use a spring-tine rake to remove winter debris, break up small amounts of thatch and lift the grass leaves and weed stems. Raking can be quite hard work and you can hire raking machines which are less arduous.

Reseeding worn areas and bare patches should be done towards the end of March or in April if the weather is extremely cold and the ground soggy.

If the whole lawn looks thin with lots of bare patches, try oversowing it with grass seed of a similar type.

You may also want to flatten your lawn or remove any lumps and bumps that have appeared over the years. To do this, cut out the turf, remove the soil underneath to lose the bump and then replace it. Fill in any cracks with sifted soil and water in well. Bare patches can either be reseeded or returfed.

A good feed and water will also make an amazing difference to the grass, particularly if you use a mechanical distributor. A fertiliser containing both quick-acting and slow-acting nitrogen is best in spring or summer.

Many gardeners will notice big patches of moss on their lawn, a problem exacerbated by wet weather, poor drainage and lack of light. Improve aeration by regular spiking with a fork. If shade is a factor, consider reducing the canopies of any nearby trees.

Alternatively, if you have moss in a shady area under trees and you don't have much time for lawn maintenance, it might be worthwhile encouraging the moss in these areas by removing the grass.

If your grass is in great condition, moss is unlikely to take a foothold. Feed it in spring or early summer and water well before it shows signs of stress from drought.

Wormcasts are a problem for many and need removing from the lawn with a stiff broom before the first mow.

When the grass is 3in (8cm) high, you can cut it for the first time. But make sure the mower blades are sharp and set them high.

Also, take account of the weather. If it's wet or frosty, delay the first cut. And don't leave your clippings on the lawn at this time of year.

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IF YOU'RE a regular shopper at garden centres and nurseries, the chances are that at some point you'll have bought a plant that has received the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

Most people see this as a sign it's a reliable, above-average specimen that will perform well in the right conditions. But plants have to go through a rigorous process before the coveted logo can be added to the label.

Only about 34 new plants are trialled each year and it can take upwards of three years before the AGM is awarded, longer for trees or slow-growing plants.

Since being introduced in 1922, the AGM has been given to more than 7,000 plants.

New plants are trialled at one of the RHS gardens or at a selected nursery or specialist grower. A panel of experts then meets to discuss and assess the merits of the plants, with input from plant-heritage experts and national-collection holders.

"There are five criteria, which are looked at as a group and not individually," Jim Gardiner, RHS director of horticulture, said.

"The first one is excellence for ordinary use in appropriate conditions. The next is that the plant is available in the trade at some level."

This means that a widely-grown, popular plant, for instance *Lavandula hidcote*, would have to be widely available from retailers nationwide to qualify, while a less popular plant, such as a trillium, should be available from appropriate outlets or specialists who grow that type of woodland garden plant.

Two other criteria are that the plant must be 'of good constitution', which means it is known to be healthy, and 'essentially stable in form and colour', performing to its description. So, if for example you were buying a variegated plant, it's not going to revert, said Gardiner.

BASKET CASES: Plants are judged on five criteria before being awarded the RHS AGM

It has also got to be reasonably resistant to pests and diseases.

"For instance, there are some herbaceous plants that succumb to mildew when put under stress – if it gets mildew very quickly, it won't be given the AGM."

Climate will inevitably have some bearing on a plant's performance. Some plants will do better in warmer regions in the south than in cooler northern areas.

This is again something the RHS is hoping to tackle when it hosts the world's first international trials conference at RHS Garden Wisley, in Surrey, in July.

"As part of our international trials conference, we'll be having a debate about hardiness ratings, linked to the AGM," said Gardiner.

This may mean that in future people will be able to more easily understand what ratings their plants fall under at the point of sale.

At present, it's not compulsory to include hardiness ratings on plant labels. Even when growers do include the information on the label, the current rating of 1 to 4 is not as clear as it should be, says Gardiner, and the RHS is hoping to extend the rating up to 7.

"Responsible growers are putting the hardiness ratings on their labels. If it's not on the plant tag, it should be at the point of sale. It's in the growers' interest to make sure they put it on because inevitably the hardiness over the last few years has been tested to the limit."

This year the RHS is carrying out a 'sunset review' to ensure the AGM list is up to date and that plants that have been superseded by better varieties or are no longer available are dropped from the list.

New logos will be drip-fed into outlets through the year, replacing the old ones.

Logos may change, but the aim remains the same, said Gardiner: "When people go to nurseries or garden centres, if they look for the AGM logo, they know there's been a huge amount of investment, not only in time but in knowledge and expertise, to know they'll be getting a first-class garden plant."

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Change can be as good as a rest

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

Put your crops in order by rotating them properly to get the most out of your vegetable plot and keep it healthy

GOOD organisation is crucial in any vegetable plot, as well as a great memory if you haven't enough labels to hand when you first plant out your veg.

Planting the same crop in the same place year after year can be a recipe for disaster as the same nutrients are sucked up and pests and diseases pertinent to that crop may still be around.

So crop rotation, an extremely old system invented by farmers to control pests and diseases before the days of pesticides, is a good way to maintain good soil hygiene and keep the soil more evenly balanced, with the addition of lots of organic matter where it is needed, of course.

The traditional method is to divide the ground into three or four plots or beds, then move groups of vegetables with similar needs from one bed to the next annually.

By grouping the greedy feeders together in one area you can maximise its value, perhaps as it may be necessary to manure only that one area per year. Then the plot you add organic matter to is changed each year so that the whole garden is manured every three years.

The three main groups are legumes (peas, beans, spinach, Swiss chard, sweetcorn), brassicas (the cabbage family, sprouting broccoli, cauliflower, kale, swedes, turnips, Brussels sprouts) and root crops (carrots, celeriac, beetroot, garlic, courgette, parsnip, tomato, onion and shallot), with potatoes in a fourth bed. Permanent crops such as asparagus and rhubarb can be grown in a plot that is not rotated.

ROTATION: A well-organised vegetable patch will reap top results

Fit in salad leaves wherever there is space, which is often in the gaps between rows of bigger, slower crops, and try to be organised enough to sow lettuces every couple of weeks in summer or you'll end up with a glut of lettuces one week and none the next.

If you have a small garden and only room for a few vegetables, simply don't grow an individual crop or a particular group in the same place for two consecutive years.

Organisation is key. Draw a plan of your plot and mark up what you want to grow, how long the crop is likely to occupy the ground and how much space it will take up, along with what you want to follow it with. It's a tall order to be that organised, but it will stop you ordering far too many seeds and plants which you won't have room to grow.

Some crops occupy the ground for most of the year, such as sprouting broccoli, winter cauliflower and Brussels sprouts. Other are fast-growing, such as radishes, salad leaves and spinach, which can utilise space in between slow-growing crops.

Some crops are sown in spring and harvested by midsummer, giving you space to grow something else. If your early potatoes are dug up in June, the space they leave could be taken up with frost-tender vegetables such as French beans and courgettes.

Crops such as broad beans, which are over by mid or late summer, can be followed by spring cabbage or quick-growing salad crops which will last to the autumn if they are protected with horticultural fleece.

Some gardeners believe that certain vegetables grow better planted next to particular neighbours. Good companions for beetroot, for instance, include cabbage, green beans and onions, but don't put them with tomatoes or asparagus.

Onions are good plant partners to carrots, leeks, lettuce, parsnips and tomatoes, but they may not do well planted with green beans and peas.

Whatever space you have, crop rotation and forward planning will help you make the most of your plot and reap huge rewards on the dinner table.

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Blazing bulbs for the summer

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

Act now to ensure your garden has real pizzazz

THE daffodils are only just starting to bloom, but you should be ordering your summer bulbs now if you want to add pizzazz to your plot in the warmer months.

Bulbs, corms and tubers can be planted in spring right up until the end of May and can be as spectacular as their spring counterparts, in troughs and tubs, or filling up the front of beds and borders, requiring little maintenance but providing a wealth of colour during the hotter months.

The majority produce their best blooms when planted in a sunny spot, although lilies and begonias bloom well in partial shade.

The secret is to plant a variety of bulbs that will last all summer, such as freesias, which bloom from June onwards, zantedeschias, which flower between July and October, and later-flowering blooms such as dahlias and tigridias.

Long after your tulips have faded, foxtail lilies (eremurus) are producing towering spires of flowers as high as 2.5m (8ft) and clumps of *Crinum* x *powellii* are producing beautiful pink blooms. Also in August and September, red hot pokers (kniphofias) are among the most impressive border plants.

In October and November, a welcome burst of colour is provided by *Nerine sarniensis*, related to amaryllis and sometimes referred to as jewel, or diamond, lilies because their petals reflect light, which is needed in the dullest months. Indeed, a panel of gardening experts has voted it the must-have bloom for this summer, in an event organised by the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Centre.

CLIMBER: ***Vibrat Gloriosa 'Rothschildiana'***

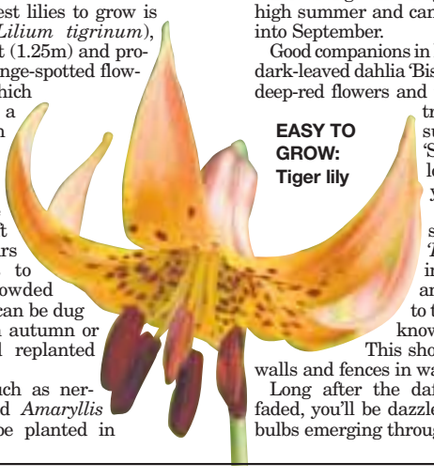
Hyacinths are generally known as highly-scented spring bulbs, but there is also a summer hyacinth, *Galtonia candicans*, which grows to 3ft (90cm) and makes big clumps of strap-like leaves, producing white, bell-shaped flowers in summer. They should be planted in late spring.

If you don't fancy lifting gladioli corms every year, try the *Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus*, which grows to 75cm (2.5ft) and produces magenta flowers. It is a hardy perennial that doesn't need digging up every year and looks wonderful in a cottage garden, although it's not quite as majestic as the taller varieties. Corms should be planted in a sunny spot in autumn or early spring in fertile, well-drained soil.

Lilies are among the most popular summer bulbs. They perform well in pots and if you want their rich scent to pervade your patio, go for *L longiflorum*, which will produce wonderful white flowers and fragrance on a sunny terrace. They are best grown in large pots of John Innes compost in autumn or early spring in a frost-free greenhouse or conservatory. Don't put them outside until the frosts have passed.

One of the easiest lilies to grow is the Tiger lily (*Lilium tigrinum*), which grows to 4ft (1.25m) and produces striking orange-spotted flowers with petals which curve in to make a ball shape. Again they can be planted in early spring in well-drained lime-free soil. The plants can be left for a couple of years until they start to become overcrowded and then clumps can be dug up and divided in autumn or early spring and replanted immediately.

Hardy bulbs such as nerines, galtonia and *Amaryllis belladonna* can be planted in spring and left to naturalise in a warm, sunny spot.



EASY TO GROW: Tiger lily

Non-hardy types such as tigridia, canna and eucomis should be planted in late spring and lifted after flowering, before the first frost. Dahlias, cannas and begonias, which are not frost-hardy, can be started off in pots indoors early in the year. Almost all need good drainage, so add sharp sand or horticultural grit to the ground below and around where the bulbs are to be planted.

The hole should be about twice the diameter of the bulb and the depth will depend on the variety you are planting.

Crocosmias, formerly known as montbretias, with their hot colours from yellow through to burnt orange and fiery reds, look their best in high summer and can continue to flower well into September.

Good companions in high summer include the dark-leaved dahlia 'Bishop of Llandaff', with its deep-red flowers and the effective foliage contrast, and bold day lilies such as Hemerocallis 'Stafford', which has fabulous scarlet flowers with yellow centres.

Other hot bulbs for summer include *Gloriosa 'Rothschildiana'*, a climbing vine with vibrant red-and-yellow flowers similar to those of the lily and often known as the climbing lily. This should be planted by trees, walls and fences in warm, sunny spots.

Long after the daffodils and tulips have faded, you'll be dazzled by a host of summer bulbs emerging through to autumn.

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COLOURFUL: Bowls, £3 each; cow print ironing board cover, £3; zebra laundry storage bin, £8; and plum bin, £32, by Matalan

Chore chic

Blow away the cobwebs, turn rooms inside out and clear the clutter – it's time for that annual ritual, spring-cleaning. GABRIELLE FAGAN reveals the gadgets, products and stylish kit to make a clean sweep.

It seems a cruel trick of fate that just as the weather starts to improve, the annual indoor ritual of spring-cleaning looms on the calendar.

Most of us just ignore it, according to a survey by Rentokil, which found that only 14 per cent of people nowadays follow the tradition, while Merry Maids domestic cleaning service also discovered that most people rarely enjoy their housework.

"We found almost half of people regard cleaning as their least favourite domestic chore, but that's partly a symptom of our busy lives," said Barbara Roberts, of Merry Maids.

"Around four-fifths of those we surveyed have to handle the cleaning at the end of a tiring workday and struggle to finish the job."

If the prospect of scurrying round banishing moths, cobwebs and winter's grime does not have you jumping for joy, don't despair.

Take small comfort from the fact that cleaning equipment has been given a snazzy makeover.

Boring brooms are so yesterday – instead you can sweep up with a wizard-looking one splattered with coloured spots, or clean with vintage pieces reminiscent of the Upstairs Downstairs life.

Cute kit may not take the pain out of drudgery, but at least you'll be fashionably embracing 'chore chic'.

Check out utility style and the savvy tips from the experts on blitzing the home.

GIRLY SPRITZING: Admit it, you love wearing a pinny and delicately flicking a duster, but rolling up your sleeves and getting out the scrubbing brush really isn't for you.

Clean obvious, on-show areas such as windows for a fast effect. "Sun will show up marks on those and make any room look dingy, but cleaning them is one of the easiest, quickest jobs," said Roberts.

"For a good shine, dilute one part vinegar to four parts water, and use a micro-fibre cloth to clean off. For a good shine, buff the windows with crumpled newspaper."

• **You'll love:** Pretty pink Housekeepers box set, labelled Clean Polish & Sparkle, £25 from Next; Designer Lisa Stickley's floral Housekeeper's Box, £25 from Debenhams.

SPOT OF CLEANING: Clown range: sponge mop, £10.29; dustpan, £6.19; broom £11; squeegee, £3.98; and dish brush, £2.89, from Homebase

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OXO Good Grips stainless steel squeegee, £10.21 from Lakeland, which has a flexible blade for whipping grime off windows, glass and tiles.

Sit back and chill while a remote-control i-Robot Roomba 531 vacuum-cleaner, £299 from John Lewis, does the job.

VINTAGE SPRUCING: Traditional types like solid, practical kit which is clearly labelled – and are more likely to be well equipped because they'll often have help with the cleaning.

"Nothing beats picking up a wooden-handled dustpan and wooden horsehair brush," said Marina Guirey, founder of The Linen Works, which has a classic range of cleaning kit.

"Also, our pieces are totally practical – a goat-hair dust brush is ideal for super-soft dusting of lampshades or dado rails, and ostrich feather-dusters are renowned for their ability to collect dust rather than move it about – they leave no electrostatic charge, so surfaces stay dust-free longer."

• **You'll love:** Ostrich feather duster from £20; goat-hair dust brush, £10; and Zinc dustpan & brush, £29, all from The Linen Works.

FUNKY: Mia laundry baskets, from £42, Berry Red.co.uk

POWERFUL: JML Shark Steam Pocket Portable, £89.99, Lakeland

Inspired by ITV period drama Downton Abbey, the Conran Shop has a new hand-crafted cleaning range, including a retro carpet beater, £12.95.

Invest in The Holding Company's practical utility bucket, £21, for keeping the kit together – then all you'll need is the staff!

FUNKY FRESHEN-UP: Make it fun and make it fast is your cleaning motto, and you can seldom resist a nifty gadget or novelty to liven up the utility room.

"You probably rush around cleaning on the run in a rather haphazard manner that can leave your home looking disorganised," said Sheila Chandra, author of Banish Clutter Forever (Vermilion, £7.99).

"But TV presenter Joan Bakewell told me her most successful ritual was every evening before bed spending just 10 minutes putting things away in their proper place.

"It means you wake up to order and feel more motivated to keep things that way."

• **You'll love:** Raise a smile with Homebase's Clown range: broom, £11, and mop, £10.29.

Just as fun is Dunelm Mill's LadyBird dustpan and brush, £1.79, and Matalan's dish brushes resembling a curvy diva in a red dress or a punky male goth, £4 each from Matalan. Pop laundry away in Berry Red's pink-and-blue Mia laundry baskets, from £42 each.

GREEN CLEAN: Recycling and looking after the environment is your priority and you wouldn't give house room to chemicals and toxins.

"My great-grandmother's journals have been a great source of wisdom to me," said Lawrence White, founder of Roullier White, which stocks all-natural cleaning products in charming retro containers.

"Her tips and hints for the annual spring-clean can make the job quicker and don't involve any pollution. For instance, spray a fine film of water on to rugs and carpets before you vacuum as this will enable you to pick up more dust from deeper within the pile.

"If you have unsightly dents in carpets left from heavy furniture, place an ice-cube in the dip and as the ice melts the pile will lift."

• **You'll love:** Roullier White's Mrs White's Clean Slate, £10 for 500ml, a non-corrosive cleaner for worktops such as marble, granite and slate, and Mrs White's Smiling Tiling cleaner, £8 for 500ml.

An eco-friendly detox kit, £15 for seven pieces from Method Products.

Speed up the spruce-up process with a Shark Team pocket portable steamer, £89.99 from Lakeland, that uses only tapwater to lift dirt and stains.

PRACTICAL: Utility bucket, £21, The Holding Company

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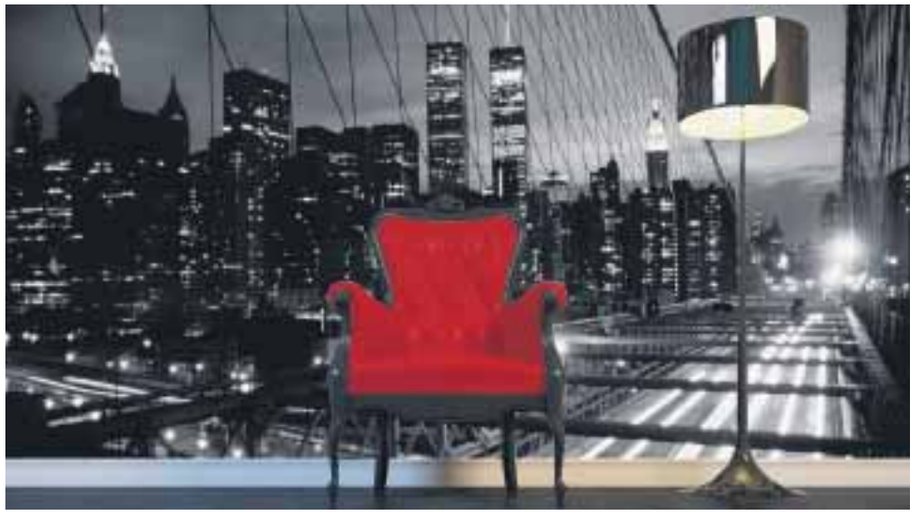

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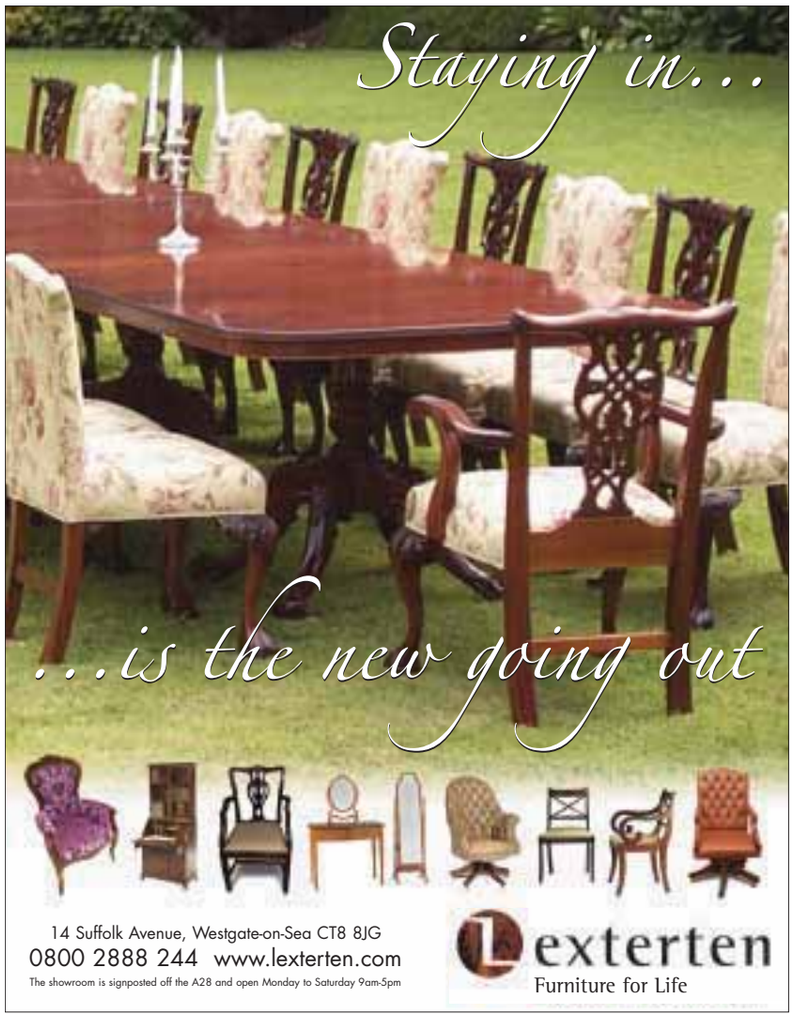

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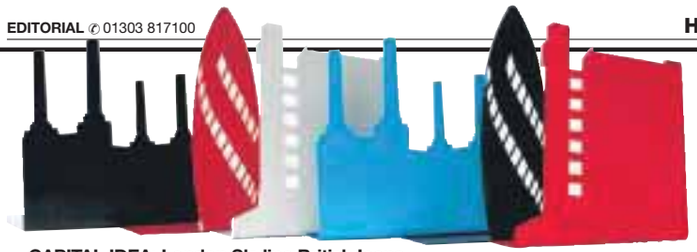

CAPITAL IDEA: London Skyline British Icons bookends, £18, Lifestylebazaar

SOFT TOUCH: Mr Wingate cushion, featuring The Royal Oak pub, London, £40, Selfridges

DISHED OF THE DAY: Photo of Seaside Villa In Penzance plate, £25,

IT'S A STICK-UP: Stone Jungle wall sticker, £65, Supernice

SMALL PRINT: Do You Live In A Town? wallpaper, £40 per roll, Mini Moderns

DO YOU LIVE IN A TOWN? Wallpaper, seen in chocolate colourway, £40 per roll, and Campanile wool rug, £495, Mini Moderns

CHIC: Photo of Café de Paris screen, £195, The French Bedroom Company

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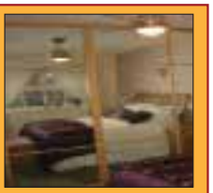

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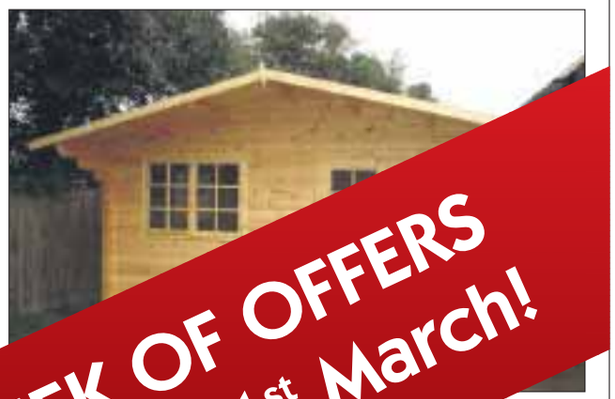
ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Johnsons Garden Buildings pride themselves in being one of the highest quality suppliers of log cabins available in the UK and have become a name people associate with quality and reliability.

Offering an extensive range of timber buildings to suit all budgets and requirements, they are also able to offer a bespoke service, meaning that you can design your own building, made to measure.

All of the log cabins are made from the highest quality Siberian spruce timber, with an interlocking system. This system is far superior than the conventional panel options currently offered by other manufacturers.



Johnsons now have three display villages across Kent, Chestfield, Maidstone and Sevenoaks, wit
future plans to expand f
during 2011. You wil
buildings are
displayed at one
the cabin and get
a feel for t
efore you buy.

Th
ce in the Log Cabin Industry, and
nswer all the questions you may have
Garden Buildings offer free site surveys, and
would certainly recommend this service for larger or bespoke cabins. Most wooden buildings can now be installed without planning permission, but if at all concerned, speak to one of the members of the Sales Team.

HURRY, LAST WEEK OF OFFERS
Sale ends Thursday 31st March!

Each and every one of Johnsons Log Cabins is offered with a delivery and installation service, using possibly the best and most experienced fitters in the area. Once the cabin has been erected, your Building will come with a 12 month structural warranty for that extra peace of mind.

So, whether you're looking for a Summer House, Playroom, Garage, Office or just an extra room to 'chill out', Johnsons can help!

With prices starting from just £1349, from a local company that prides itself on Quality, Service and Customer Satisfaction; Johnsons Garden Buildings are definitely worth a visit!

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3m x 3m

WAS ~~£2599~~
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